

THE STAR
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Window on Jordan

Kicking the habit requires will-power

By Ibtisam Awadat
Special to The Star
THE "NO Smoking" sign is a common one, often placed where it can be easily seen. The funny thing is though, the people who put the signs up are quite frequently the first to violate it. As soon as you take your seat in a taxi, bus or any other car the driver begins to blow his smoke.

This action has been repeated many times, and has caused many headaches between drivers and passengers. The passenger is often the first to want to ban smoking, pleading the case of public health.

The driver's counter argument is that he is free to do what ever he wants, forgetting that his freedom should end when the freedom of others begins.

The negative effects of smoking are not limited to these quarrels only, as it can cause many diseases that affect the health; both to the smoker and more importantly to the non-smoker because of the cigarette pollutants.

"I smoke three and a half packets a day, and these are different brands of cigarettes," says well-known columnist Yossef Ghishan, who is a satirical writer, borrows a

famous saying from the late American novelist Mark Twain that states "Giving up smoking is the easiest thing to do. The proof for this, is that I gave it up more than two thousand times."

Mr Ghishan has been actively pursuing his 'bad habit' as he describes it, for the last 22 years. He spends two and a half dinars a day just to keep in stock, sarcastically adding that he divides the year into two: the first six months he smokes cigarettes, while the second half is devoted to cigars and nargile.

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The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

Draft press and publications law goes to legislature

Journalists mull over their future

By Raed Al Abed
Star Staff Writer
AS THE Cabinet endorsed the new draft press and publications law this week, something which is already sending jitters to the press community, journalists are slowly pondering on what lies ahead.

The press body, backed up by popular sectors have strongly criticized the proposed law describing it as a "punishment law rather than a press law."

More than 100 journalists and editors, who are still at the foot of the profession, are today mulling over their fate. Many, who have given a usual editorial touch to their newspapers, simply say that their enthusiasm has "been zapped."

"It passed in its present form the new draft law would mean an end to our future," said Rakan Al-Sa'adeh, the local political affairs reporter in Al-Balad weekly. Al-Sa'adeh, who is

in his mid-20s, believes that what has been leaked of the draft articles has created an atmosphere of tension amongst journalists. "The draft law raised the ceiling of taboos and lowered the ceiling of freedoms."

Last week popular sectors in the country were shocked, to say the least, about the unilateral way the government had formed the new draft.

Several newspapers, including The Star published the initial draft of the legislation,

which limits the press freedoms by imposing heavy fines, press closures and the imprisonment of journalists.

Young journalists held their breath when the High Court of Justice ruled against a previous temporary press law. This was seen as a historical decision, not only because it was a victory for public liberties, but because it allowed the republication of 13 weeks, the home of more than 200 employees.

But there are new worries. Rania Al Zou'bi, another young cun in the Shilhan weekly, believes that the proposed law is targeting the weekly press, since these papers tackle bold and critical issues. The reporter, who specializes in social affairs said that "the current [1993 Press and Publications] Law is still criticized despite giving the press some freedoms. However, the proposed law is very dangerous, as it would bring the country and the press back to the pre-democracy era."

She added that "We are facing a draft that imposes many red-lines, many taboos which leaves a very narrow space for journalists to move, and adds the fear of extreme penalties," she emphasized. "Working in such an atmosphere will weaken creativity and professionalism," the 25-year-old Zou'bi, continued.

Others are also worried. Some have even said that they have woken up at night with nightmares. "I am scared about my future," said Iyad Khalifa, 27, an editor in Al-Haddath weekly. "I studied journalism to work and earn a respectable living, but in the light of the renewed threats on the press during the past year, the ghost of fear about the future keeps haunting me."

The draft law that is now in the hands of the Lower House

Lower House gears up for draft economic laws

By Ibtisam Sadeq
Star Staff Writer
SINCE THE launch of the World Bank-backed economic restructuring program in 1989, the government has saved no effort in seeking to boost the economy and encourage the role of the private sector. These, in turn required many economic laws whose ultimate effect would serve as a lynchpin to economic growth.

Parliament has already ratified a package of economic legislations in its previous sessions. Today, both government and Parliament seem more robust about finalizing these economic laws. It is argued that the present extraordinary session of the Lower House should be used effectively to bring these about.

"When the last ordinary session ended, the Financial Committee of the House continued its discussion of the draft laws, which included a law to organize the licences of professions in the Greater Amman Municipality, and other municipalities," Mr Munir Sobar, the rapporteur of the Committee, told The Star.

In addition the committee dealt with proposed amendments to the Investment Promotion Law, the Securities Law and discussed reports submitted by the Audit Bureau for the years 1995 to 1997. The committee will submit these reports to the Lower House during the this extraordinary session.

Among other legislations awaiting further discussion are the draft law to endorse the financial protocol between Jordan and France, and another law to enhance competition and prevent monopolistic practices.

Moreover, there are other laws that were sent back to the Lower House by the Upper House (after amendment) including the draft law for the protection of the national economy, and the customs law.

In addition, there are other draft laws by the government, such as a law to reorganize saving funds in private sector institutions and professional

unions. It has faced tough opposition from many parties, including employees who have built their hopes on these funds. However, the government seems to be backing off and it looks like that it would cancel the law.

Mr Sobar on previous occasions said that the draft law is not fair. But today he states that if resurfaces in the Lower House, then his committee would discuss it thoroughly to make sure that it would be fair to all parties involved.

Mr Sobar has not also lost his enthusiasm for price liberalization. As a former Minister for Supply, he was the one who was responsible for liberalizing prices of stable foodstuffs.

"I called for the necessity to liberalize prices, and allow supply and demand to determine the level of prices. Such a policy, in Sobar's view, gives the private sector a more vital role in the economy by helping to create competition among merchants."

"At that time I did my best to speed-up the approval of the law to enhance competition and prevent monopolistic practices, before completely liberalizing the prices of goods, but I think that the situation in the market will tend to stabilize soon, especially after the endorsement of this law."

However, Mr Sobar who owns a consulting engineering office in Amman, stressed that the price level of goods has now tended to stabilize and consumers have the choice to select the goods they like and also the price they can afford.

Mostly prices of basic supply commodities such as rice, sugar and powdered milk have fallen, because merchants imported a wide variety of these items, and are selling them at various prices, whereas the Ministry of Supply used to offer such goods at fixed prices.

Mr Sobar is satisfied about the outcome of such a philosophy and reiterates that it greatly helps to enhance competition, (and lowering prices, and improving the quality of imported items and locally



Sobar
made products).

In its first week of discussion, one of the many topics that is on the lips of deputies in the Lower House is the cancellation of the Ministry of Supply.

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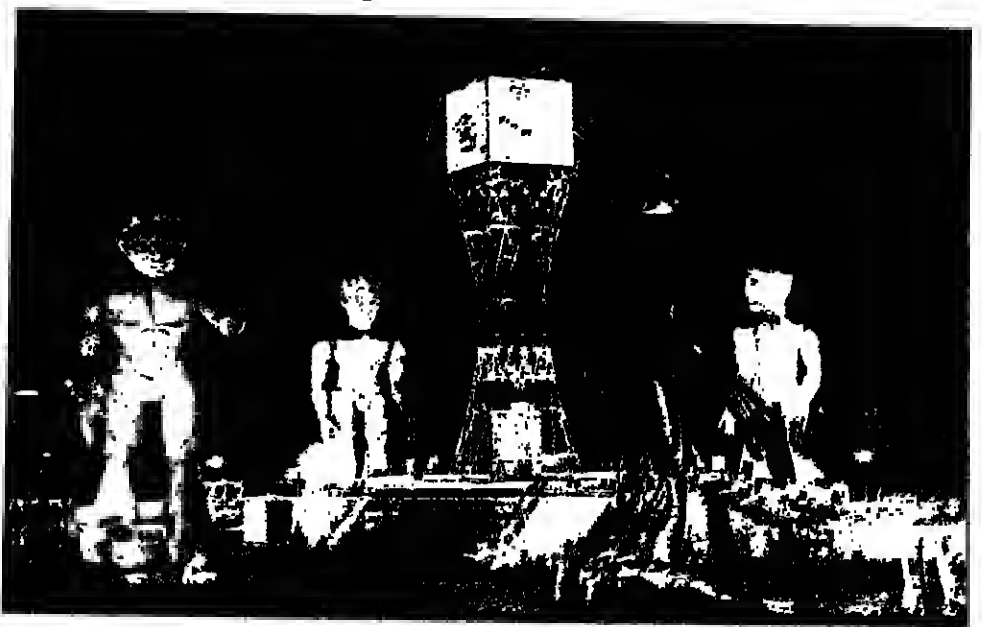
World Cup kicks off

By Anne Swardson
FOUR 60-foot-high balloon-like giants glided down the boulevards of Paris Tuesday night, as this city kicked off its largest street parade ever in celebration of the World Cup soccer tournament, which began yesterday.

Flag-waving Brazilians in yellow team shirts and Scots in kilts mingled along the Champs-Elysees, sharing beer and taking photos of each other, in preparation for yesterday's opening match between the countries at the new 80,000-seat, \$500-million Stade de France in the northern suburbs.

The locals, meanwhile, marked the occasion in typical national style. Air France pilots remained on strike for a ninth day. Drivers of money trucks went on strike, raising fears that bank branches would run out of cash and close. Bus drivers in Bordeaux and train conductors on the Paris-southern lines geared up for strikes later in the week.

"We hope that because of



the World Cup the stakes will be raised," one striking Brinks driver said on French television. "It's sad, but that's the way it is."

From the crowds of foreigners in the city Tuesday night, it seemed that a large number of people who wanted to get to France had managed to do so.

British Airways added 2,400 seats between London and Paris this week by using Boeing 747s and 767s instead of

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Al Shomari: An environmentalist dream world turned into reality

By Ibtisam Awadat
Special to The Star

TO GET lost in the desert is an extraordinary experience: feelings of fear, loneliness and joy all come together. Three hours in the eastern desert of Jordan might conjure up images of danger to the fresh adventurer, but not for the experienced travel guide.

A has convoy of members from the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), Friends of the Environment, journalists and other interested people headed for one destination, the Al Shomari Reserve for Wildlife in the Al Azraq wetland in the north-east of the country. The group took advantage of the Kingdom's celebrations of Jordan's Independence Day to inaugurate a Visitors' Center at Al Shomari Reserve.

As soon as you leave the borders of Amman, you see nothing but miles and miles of yellow desert, and if you are lucky you may see some wild animals or birds.

After three hours of driving, the peaks of the huge palm trees begin to surface, and the contrast is stark: arid desert gives way to luscious greenery.

This Visitors' Center, which was inaugurated by RSCN's President Anis Al Moasher, is fully equipped to receive visitors. In the center, there is a modest shop which sells only natural products, as well as lecture and visitor halls whose walls are richly decorated with pictures narrating the story of nature conservation in Jordan.

"The pictures are not only designed to be pleasing to the eye but also to have an educative value for visitors and specially students," said one of

the guides.

"By turning the picture cards the other way around, you can find information about animals, plants, and different habitats," the guide added.

Inaugurating this center is one of the activities for the "Cry for Nature" campaign that was launched last week to underline the threats and challenges which face the ecosystems in Jordan.

The Al Shomari Reserve was established in 1958 to be devoted to agricultural experiments in the Jordanian desert. However in 1967, it was handed to the RSCN.

After nearly eight years, the Society started fencing the reserve to establish the first wildlife conservation in the Kingdom.

The Reserve, named after Wadi Al Shomari which passes through it, occupies an area of 22 square kilometers.

Meanwhile, the story with extinct animals began in 1978 when a shipment of four male Oryxes arrived from the San Diego Zoo for the Cooperation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the International Fund for the Conservation of Wildlife. Later on another another four females came from the same zoo.

Also in 1978, Qatar sent three Oryxes: it was a gift to Jordan, bringing the Jordanian flock up to 11. Now, thanks to the sincere efforts of environmentalists, nearly 2100 Oryxes run freely in Al Shomari.

"Because of a breeding scheme, Jordan was even able to send some young Oryxes to Arab countries such as Iraq, Syria, and Oman," said Moasher.

But today, the Al Shomari Reserve has adopted

another bird, the Blue-neck Ostrich, as the first numbers arrived from the Oklahoma Zoo (USA). Also, another group, the Red-neck Ostrich was presented to the Reserve by His Royal Highness Prince Hassan in 1990.

It is well-known that the Red-neck Ostrich is the nearest specie in the Syrian-wild Ostrich which existed in Jordan in 1964.

In addition, the Montpellier Zoo in the south of France and the Warner Stam Organisation in Switzerland sent a flock of the Asiatic Wild Ass. The Arabian version of this animal became extinct about a 100 years ago.

If you have the chance to stand on the edge of the reserve, you will see how these wild animals and birds live side by side, peacefully and in a strange harmony.

Besides this, there are more than 180 different kinds of wild plants in Al Shomari.

Being a wetland, Al Azraq attracts a huge number of migrating birds, and in Al Shomari there are at least 135 different species of bird.

"People often ask why we bother ourselves with the animals, but they should be made to understand that protecting animals and nature is a way to protect humanity," stressed Mr Moasher who explained that the Al Shomari Reserve has become a place for study and research.

"Our ambition is to turn Al Shomari into a living example of a natural reserve in the Arab world," Moasher added, Jordan plans to encourage natural tourism since figures indicate that this kind of tourism is on the increase. The Dana Reserve, for instance, received almost 20,000 visitors last year which means people are going back to nature.



For the Record

King meets Mordcheai

AMMAN (Petra)—His Majesty King Hussein Sunday said those who represent the peace camp in the region must come closer together in their common struggle to see the fulfillment of their dream about peace in the entire region. "I believe very, very strongly in the peace camp; the people who believe in peace between the descendants of the children of Abraham for all times to come are closer together and must come closer together to see the fulfillment of their dream, and God's will, in bringing about peace in the entire region," the king told reporters following a meeting with Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and his delegation at Bab Al Salam.

The King said his talks with the Israeli Minister dealt with mutual concerns. "I am sure we have talked about our mutual concerns, concerns for the peace process, for the future, for the generations to come and of the critical moment through which we are passing," the King said.

His Majesty voiced hope that efforts would be further intensified to achieve progress in the faltering Middle East peace process. "I hope that we will do everything we can to ensure that progress is made and our dreams become a reality; the dream of a comprehensive peace in the entire region," His Majesty said. The King said he was satisfied from what he has heard from Mordechai. "After hearing Defense Minister Mordechai I am more optimistic," the King said expressing hope that things will move in the right direction. In reply to a question on the US proposal pertaining to the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks, His Majesty said the US proposal is very important and it came as a result of a joint long study as the US is a partner to peace making in this region and therefore the American proposal should receive a positive response in the full sense of the word so that mutual objectives can be attained. On his part Mordechai thanked His Majesty the king for giving him the chance to talk and exchanging views on how the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks can be pushed forward.

Journalists mull over their future

Continued from page 1

is expected to raise the capital of a weekly to JD 300,000 which must be paid in full, something which will surely close down again most of the 13 weeklies and add more than 200 workers onto the jobless rate in the country.

For Waleed Husni, 36, a reporter in Al Majd weekly it will be hard to find another job, if his paper is closed. A married man and a father of three, Waleed said the difficulties that keep facing the press have forced him to think of looking for another job, far away from journalism, but "I have failed so far, the press is my only source of income, I have no alternative."

Another example of frustration is the case of Tariq Ahnas. He is somewhat lucky because of his engineering degree. After leaving university he went straight into journalism working as a reporter in Al Sabel Islamic weekly.

lamenting that he is seriously thinking of quitting the profession once and for all, and go back to engineering. But Yannal Barmawi, 28, of Akhbar Al Eshou weekly still holds his chin high. He is not even thinking of leaving the press. "I wanted to work as a journalist because I believe the press has a message, but the current proposals will definitely affect the press in a negative way," Parliament should recom-

mend a lot of changes to the many repressive articles in the current draft. Otherwise, "passed in its present form the draft will eliminate the role of the press as a watchdog body: it will see violations but will have to turn a blind eye," Barmawi said.

Ms Al Zuhbi, who graduated with a BA in Journalism agrees, saying that it would be hard to live under the draft law, but says that "journalism is in my blood; I can't work in another field."

"Journalists now wait anxiously for Parliament and pray that the people's deputies will save the press and the country, and a whole generation of young talented journalists," as stated by the young reporter.

"For the sake of democracy and development, I plead with the government to consider the popular sectors, seeing the press as friends not enemies," concluded Al Sa'adeh.

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Kicking the habit requires will-power

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Generally, people stick to one kind of tobacco. "I think smoking has an atmosphere of its own, that's why I only smoke nargile or the hubbly-hubbly, as it has its own special rituals," said Khalil Mahmoud.

"I noticed that smoking cigarettes is an ordinary habit, whilst for nargile, I have to prepare the tobacco, the coal, the water and find a good place," Khalil continued.

But aside from the rituals, the negative effects of smoking still dominates. It has adverse effects especially on pregnant women and children.

"I found a packet of cigarettes in my brother's drawer. He has not yet passed his 11th birthday," said Fedaa.

"The only choice I had is to tell my mother after he died everything. Mother of course was powerless to do anything after my brother asked 'why my father smokes?'"

"We urge smokers to participate in our programs to give them the right attitudes in fighting smoking," said Dr Mohammad Shreem, president of the Jordanian National Society for Anti-Smoking (JNSAS) which was established in 1981.

"According to the International Health Organization (IHO) smoking causes 25 diseases, among which are cancer and heart problems," Dr Shreem added.

The second dimension regarding the bad habit is the economic losses to the country. Statistics provided by Dr Shreem indicated that in 1996, Jordanian smokers paid JD 165.4 million for the local

and smuggled cigarettes. "And 30,000 dunams of the most fertile lands in Jordan are planted every year with tobacco, which destroys agriculture areas," Dr Shreem pointed out.

However there is another side to the coin. The three main local cigarette companies paid JD 89.7 million in taxes for 1996.

"Studies proved that for every single penny that enters the country from the profits of smoking, the loss will be 13 times more. That means our losses have passed 100 million dinars," Dr Shreem commented. Recently, the JNSAS held a conference titled "Activation and modernization of systems and laws of anti-smoking." "We called on the government to activate the articles of the law concerning the protection of public health," Dr Shreem told The Star.

Last year there was 64 pub-

lic health warnings against smoking. Its forbidden to have any kind of promotion in the mass media.

"We need also to activate articles 25, 26, and 27 in the 1968 Tobacco Law which stipulates the prevention of selling cigarettes unless establishments have a license from the Ministry of Finance and the Customs Dept."

Dr Shreem mentioned other articles which hinder smoking in closed areas, as well as one which requires permission to sell cigarettes on the streets, a common scene today.

However, it is not too late to give up hope. "A study carried out by the Ministry of Health, indicates that 10 percent of Jordanian smokers gave it up completely," Dr Shreem optimistically announced. The same study showed that 49 percent of male smokers are in the age category of 25 and above.



Iraqi workers unload medical cargo from a Royal Jordanian airline that landed at Saddam Hussein International Airport, last week. On board the plane was a 113-man Jordanian delegation headed by the Minister of Health, Dr Ashraf Al Kurdi. Another United Arab Emirates plane landed at the airport, Friday. Since the beginning of this year 22 planes carrying medical aid to Iraq have landed in Baghdad according to UN sources.

Horizon has the 'Mind & Mood' perfectly set in the Middle East

HORIZON, THE Advertising and Communication Network, recently organized a unique training seminar aimed at advancing marketing communications, using a new system called Mind & Mood.

Mind & Mood is a proprietary tool developed by Foote, Cone and Belding (FCB) the highly recognized global power house in the advertising industry and Horizon's worldwide affiliate.

In the charming southern suburb of Vouliagmenis, Athens, Heads of Office and the creative, media and account managements of Horizon convened for two days at the Astir Palace Hotel, and participated in various sessions and workshops. They focused on ensuring that all employees knew their consumers like never before, enhancing the agency's creative capabilities to communicate advertising messages to those consumers most effectively.

Impressive case studies were also presented by the FCB's Mind & Mood Senior Executives, Ted Klauber from New York and Julie Danis from Chicago, who conducted the training in a very high standard.

"Like in every ambitious company that seeks to maintain a progressive drive, training is a primary objective for Horizon. Our people are our major assets, and they should be given every



opportunity to further strengthen their capabilities. This is a responsibility that the management of Horizon is determined to fulfill," said Mr. Ralif Saadeh, Chairman and CEO of Horizon Network.

Mr. Caesar Matar, VP training and Managing Director of Horizon, Beirut, described the seminar saying Mind & Mood is really a unique technique that leads to obtain essential consumer insights, which are vital if creative

advertising is going to work. The merits and values of Mind & Mood are too numerous to be able to capture in one statement. "Everyone within the Horizon Network enjoyed the seminar and we are all determined and excited to put what we learnt into practice," expressed Mr. Matar.

Executives attended the seminar from Horizon offices in Amman, Athens, Beirut, Cairo, Dubai, Kuwait and Jeddah.

History and Archaeology

Conference in Copenhagen

COPENHAGEN (Petra)—Meetings of the Seventh International Conference on the History and Archaeology of Jordan began in the Danish capital last Sunday. The six-day conference is being held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Queen Margrethe II of Denmark. The conference came as a result of an initiative taken by Prince Hassan in the early 1980s to hold a conference on the history and archaeology of Jordan. The conference which is held every three years, was first held in the British city of Oxford.

Jordan/Sudan meeting

AMMAN (Petra)—The Joint Jordanian-Sudanese Committee

held a meeting in Amman on Tuesday co-chaired by the two countries' ministers of industry and trade to discuss the establishment of a free trade zone between the two countries. Meanwhile, the Jordanian-Sudanese Technical Committee held a meeting at the Ministry of Industry and Trade on Sunday to prepare an agenda for deliberations of the Joint committee. The agenda includes possibilities of signing a land transport agreement as well as taking constitutional measures to approve the maritime transport agreement signed in 1995. It also includes the discussion of health cooperation between the two countries, the signing of an executive program for cultural and scientific cooperation for the years 1998-2000 and the establishment of joint investment projects.

Jordan, Yugoslavia sign Agreement

AMMAN (Petra)—Jordan and Yugoslavia have initiated an agreement on the encouragement and protection of investments between the two countries. The agreement was signed by Director General of the Investment Promotion Corp. (IPC) Dr Muntazir Oqleh and the Yugoslav Deputy Finance Minister. The agreement comes as a culmination of the two countries' willingness to create a favourable climate for active economic cooperation, especially with regard to guaranteeing and protecting investments from both sides. It also creates a relevant frame to stimulate Yugoslav companies' corporations from the various productive sectors to invest in Jordan.

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JORDAN

W E E K

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar

APM on education and employment

The Prime Minister this week has been making his views known. No, I am not talking about the draft press and publications law, but rather more mundane issues that affect the man in the street. This time he stressed education and employment. Dr Abdel Salam Al Majali said that action needs to be taken on both fronts. Speaking at Mu'ta University in Kerek, he said the educational system must be geared more towards the needs of the labor market in Jordan. But, on a more contentious note he said that public universities could start charging more fees to amortize the JD 96 million debts that they have accumulated. However, he was careful to suggest that less well off students won't be subject to the rise in fees which is presently just one of the options that are on the table. On the issue of employment he said that Jordanians should avail themselves of the many jobs that are occupied by the 500,000 foreign laborers, who remit about half a billion dinars annually.



Majali

No Resignation

Contrary to press reports, Minister of Administrative Development Bassam Al Omoush said he won't resign from the government over the draft press and publications law. He said that such a resignation would serve no purpose. He said that he is in favor of the draft law which calls for "freedom and responsibility" despite the fact that he disagrees with some of its articles, like the heavy fines and the 10 year period for chief editor. Also, somewhat controversially, he said he is against the existence of a Press and Publication Department.

Smoking

They chewed on the idea for a while, but now they are going to put it to the test. In fact, the government is determined to do something about what is regarded as a filthy habit. Starting from this week, they are banning smoking from public institutions and public transport in the nation's capital, Amman. Of course, it won't be done straight away, but the Amman Health Directorate wants to introduce the no-smoking ban slowly in public places. Health officials say that the idea behind this gradual process is to make Ammanites more aware of the dangers of smoking and accept the ban. Again, officials in the Health Directorate say the idea in the long run is to make Amman a smoke-free zone. Hence, no smoking signs would be extended to cinema houses, restaurants, hotels, factories, companies and even coffee bars. But critics say that the Health Directorate will have a hell of a job in enforcing the ban. But not so officials argue, who say that they would be prepared to take violations of the no-smoking rules to court.

Islamists halt King call for dialogue

The Islamic movement has welcomed the call for dialogue with His Majesty King Hussein. Earlier this week the King said he would be willing to meet with members of the Islamic movement. The new General Secretary of the Islamic Action Front Abdel Latif Arabiyat said such a meeting would be greatly appreciated as there is a need for a constructive dialogue.

Women

Congratulations are due to all women, and here I am not trying to be patronizing. Last week, Dr. Alia Hatough became the first female Secretary General to head the Ministry of Tourism. She is only the second woman to hold such a high ranking post, the first being made a few months ago when Ms. Nancy Bakir became Secretary General of the Ministry of Administrative Development. Dr. Hatough is an academic at the University of Jordan who teaches environmental sciences.

Landmines

A two-day landmine conference will take place in Amman between 11-12 July. Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the conference will deal with a variety of topics relating to landmines. An array of international and regional experts, and landmine victims will meet and discuss issues concerning the scope and impact of landmines in the Middle East, emergency medical care, mobility, prosthetics and physical access, social reintegration, economic reintegration as well as mine awareness and data collection. The Landmine Survivors Network (LSN) is the organizer of the conference. The LSN is an NGO created by American landmine survivors to help the hundreds of thousands of innocent landmine victims alive today. Director of LSN, and himself a landmine survivor says, "we are delighted that such a conference will be held in Amman and we are particularly grateful to HM Queen Noor for her keen interest in the issue." This venue is unprecedented in Amman, something that is jointly organized with the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the Jordan Red Crescent Society.

Internews

An international NGO that is connected with news and media has been given a license to operate in Amman. Internews, an organization that was established last year has been given the go-ahead to operate in the following areas: to train journalists, workers in media, women organizations and parliament in the use of the electronic media; to use the internet; and provide technical support for the development of the Jordanian press and media.

Abu Marzouq dies at 55

THE WELL-known Jordanian actor Hassan Ibrahim died of a heart attack, Tuesday, at the age of 55. He created the much-loved character of Abu Marzouq in the famous local comedy 'Harat Abu Awad'. The artist was among pioneers of the theatrical movement in Jordan, starting his acting career in 1971. Being popular in many dramas, the artist greatly contributed to theater in Jordan. As well as comedy, he played many social and historical roles. The late Ibrahim was born in Palestine in 1943. He was just about to finish filming another television series when he died.



Ibrahim



His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces sponsored Tuesday's morning celebrations held by the armed forces on the 82nd anniversary of the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day. Upon arrival at the celebration site at the Martyrs Monument, His Majesty was received by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Marei Kaabneh and other high ranking army officers. On this occasion, the King also decorated a number of officers at a ceremony that was held at the Raghdan Palace.

Boost your way to wedlock through a 'group marriage'

By Ghassan Joha
Special to The Star

GROUP WEDDINGS are not uncommon around the world. They are the norm. In Jordan, this form of wedlock is today a way out of financial hardship. It was to encourage young people to marry—something that is basic to the Islamic teachings—that the Al Afaf Charity Society was founded in 1992. Since its foundation, the Society has been trying hard to spread and develop the idea of 'Group weddings' among young people.

The main objective of the ACS is to facilitate the process of marriage to anyone who wishes to tie the knot as it were. And that can't be achieved unless we change the old prevalent traditions and attitudes that discourage our sons and daughters from doing so. Mufeed Sirhan, director general of the ACS, told The Star.

A special study carried out by the ACS shows that the number of men and women who are outside the circle of wedlock is increasing at an alarming rate. Mr Sirhan puts the blame on people for their lack of understanding of the concepts of marriage and family.

However, the idea itself—a group wedding—seems to be getting more popularity each year. Up until now, 36 couples have taken part in the four ceremonies organized over the past three years.

The beginning was in August 1995, when four couples took part in the much awaited ceremony. "Before the ceremony, we carried out a detailed study to find out how the people would accept the idea and who would want to take part in the wedding," Sirhan said.

Many people welcomed and praised the idea, but when it came to the crunch only four couples agreed to take part. "The event underlined the need for the Society to work with other sectors in the community," added Sirhan. Over 15 contributions from companies and businessmen were made during the ceremony to the couples.

One year later, the second



group wedding was held on July 1996, at the Al Ithihad Secondary School for Girls. "The ACS accepted the invitation because of the readiness of the school, and because of the large number of couples who had available," Sirhan added.

Another four couples participated in the ceremony, but there was a pleasant twist. While the ACS was preparing for the wedding, two Chinese students from the University of Jordan called them and asked to participate.

"Naturally, we joyfully allowed them to take part. China was the first country in the world to organize group weddings," continued Sirhan. The Chinese Consul was among those in the audience.

By the following year, July 1997, the number of couples that participated in the group wedding was 17.

They were from Amman, Balqa and Zarqa governorates. Over 40 benefactors made financial contributions to the couples.

The fourth one had its own story. "During the preparations," the ACS received a special request from a group of young men in Irbid asking for a group wedding to be held there. Sirhan went on to say.

"It was the first such ceremony to take place outside Amman, with 11 couples. Sirhan said that the event gave the ACS the inspiration to hold some of their upcoming group weddings in other cities. The Irbid Municipality took over and hosted the ceremony on August 1997.

This year the ACS is preparing for the fifth festival sometime in July.

"We prefer to perform the ceremonies in summer because of its convenience to public holidays and the nice weather conditions. Otherwise, the date has nothing to do with the number of couples who will get married," said Sirhan.

As for expenses, the ACS is an independent charity foundation. Its budget is provided by contributions and donations from various benefactors. With a special fund, the ACS began lending money to young couples since 1995.

By the end of last year, the highest reached about JD 400,000.

"The ACS aims to deepen social cooperation in our country, as the fund tries to facilitate to the people who missed their chances of marriage," he said.

According to an official survey in 1995, the average age for males who got married was 29; for females the figure was 26. Sirhan said these are due to the high cost of living and unemployment. "Time after time, people realize that embarking on traditional marriage costs them a lot of money; money they can't afford. It is because of this we established the society to help people and look into their financial problems; group weddings is a way to encourage matrimony that is based on the Islamic doctrine and teachings," Sirhan added.

He urged the media to continue to provide coverage of group weddings. "We thank the mass media in Jordan and abroad for their excellent coverage of our activities. On the domestic level, the ACS now operates four branches in the Kingdom in addition to Amman. In the future the society hopes to open other branches all over the country. The ACS also plans to build a large complex—4000 square meters—for large wedding rooms and other facilities. The main branch will then move from its current location behind the Sports City."

King addresses journalists



HIS MAJESTY King Hussein said that peace is a strategic objective which Jordan must work to achieve, stressing that the desired peace is the permanent and honorable one which would lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state and the return of the Golan Heights and South Lebanon.

During a meeting with local media representatives at the Royal Coun Saturday, the King asserted the importance of focussing on the suffering of the Palestinian people and supporting them especially at this critical stage, to enable them to regain their rights and establish their independent state on their national soil with its capital in Jerusalem.

Jordan will continue to support the Palestinian National Authority, for it is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and because this is a sacred duty," His Majesty said. The King called on the Palestinians to open dialogue amongst themselves to unify and enhance their stand.

Commenting on the proposed Arab summit, the King said Jordan will continue to work towards holding this summit which would lead to Arab integration and solidarity. The King said that there are some obstacles that still hinder the convening of this summit. "Whether it is a mini or an expanded summit it should be effective and seek to solve problems," His Majesty said.

On Jordan's stand towards Iraq, the King said direct dialogue between Iraq and the United States is the one which would lead to define the future course of Iraq on both internal and external levels.

Referring to the new draft press and publication law, His Majesty asserted that the new law was referred to the cabinet and then to the House of Deputies for debate and approval.

He expressed readiness to discuss the law with any one interested in doing so. The King presented some outlines of the new law noting that it has increased the ceiling of the freedom of the press. The new law deprived the government of the right to pass any penalty on any association or any individual involved in media activities, the King added.

Article 3 of the law reads: Press is free...and freedom of expression is guaranteed for every Jordanian...and he/she has the right to express his opinion in words, in writing, in photography, in pictographing or in any other means of expression," the King explained.

The aim of the new law is to reach a much higher level than what we have achieved so far especially at a time when there are lots of challenges facing us at the level of this "wronged country...the level of a wronged country and people whose history has been distorted and has been greatly ill-treated in terms of its accomplishments, its action, its loyalty and its stand in face of anything threatening its nation under all circumstances, the King told leading journalists.

The essence and the main objective of discussions in such a meeting and similar meetings before is to know how there can be a press and media for this country and how to enter the world of satellites in an effective way stating the truth and defending it all the time because with truth and credibility we will be much stronger than those who intend to harm us in a way or another, the King said.

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World Cup kicks off

Continued from page 1

the smaller 757s. Germany's Lufthansa Airlines also used larger planes between Frankfurt and Paris. So far, the train service between France and other European countries has been largely undisturbed.

Among a dozen groups of Brazilian and Scottish fans along the Champs-Élysées, none reported any trouble getting to France. Some, however, had taken precautions.

"We are not taking the train or Air France," said Brazilian Edilberto Xavier Jr., here with 10 friends. "We've rented two cars and we're going to drive all over the country." The fact that none in his group had tickets to any Brazil games was not a deterrent, he said. Nor did the plethora of strikes in France affect his mood.

"The strike is a right of the workers," Xavier said. "For them, I am sure it's the best time to strike. But for the common citizen, it's very bad. They should find a way to solve it quickly."

Similarly, Neil Pirie of Glasgow and his two friends, had no trouble flying to London on a British airline and then taking

the train through the Channel Tunnel. "We'd swim the Channel to get here," he said.

The main complaint of the Scottish fans was that many who arrived at the airport with "Braveheart"-style warpaint on their faces were ordered by French immigration agents to wash their faces on the grounds that the makeup made it impossible to see if the face matched the passport photo.

When France won the opportunity 10 years ago to host the World Cup this year, the plan was to make the soccer tournament a party, and party it is.

The 32 participating countries are celebrated in special exhibitions in the Metro subway system and on 32 grand boulevards, where, among other events, 32 phone booths have been refitted to represent the nations playing.

The Louvre has an exhibit of sporting art in ancient Greece. The Three Tenors will sing under the Eiffel Tower on July 10. Robot soccer players will play at the science museum.

Paris had been preparing for the parade of the giants, each of the four male figures represent-

ing a different corner of the earth, for two years. In the last week, 20,000 barriers were placed along the parade routes, bus shelters were removed from curbsides, trees were trimmed to make sure they were not brushed by the shoulders of the 38-metric-ton giants.

As they converged on the Place de la Concorde from four locations around Paris, the giants, a hailstorm-like inflatable exterior covering their mechanical structure, were followed by 3,500 actors, dancers, rollerbladers, athletes and children in costume.

"They represent the anthropological and cultural origins of man," said their creator, Jean-Pascal Levy-Truget.

They were guarded by 6,000 police officers. For days now, the streets and sidewalks of Paris have been filling with machine-gun-toting security officers from the military and from France's multiple national and local police forces.

During the whole of the games, some 25,000 security officers will be employed each day, including 8,000 paramilitary gendarmes, 2,000 anti-

terrorist troops and 2,000 soldiers. They are guarding not just the stadiums, but the training camps and lodgings of foreign teams and such sensitive sites as the Eiffel Tower, atop which sit numerous communications antennae.

French authorities have three very different security worries. Inside the stadiums, they fear hooligans, especially British ones. Fearing a repeat of two tragedies at non-World Cup games in the 1980s when fans were crushed to death against security fences surrounding the fields, most of the stadiums in which these games will be played will not have fences. In the first round, only one game, Belgium-Holland in Paris on June 13, is categorized as high-risk. The United States-Iran match June 21 in Lyon is not.

Outside the stadiums, French authorities most fear terrorism against innocent civilians in public places. Three separate roundups in the past three months have resulted in the questioning of nearly 100 people with ties to Algerian Islamic groups; 19 people have been formally placed under investigation.



The judiciary police are one small part of a host of smaller strikes, protests and labor actions that have sprouted up during the World Cup. As listed in Le Monde newspaper, they include: Air France pilots, Bordeaux bus drivers, south-

ern-line train engineers, medical interns, teachers in Rouen, university assistants everywhere and shipbuilders in Toulon.

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

Lurie's NewsCartoon



Our Say

La Copa de la Vida!

MANY WILL remember the year 1998 for a series of dramatic events that will linger for years. The year is still in its prime and yet it has ushered in a motley assortment of discoveries, catastrophes, debacles and achievements. From the nuclear blasts by India and Pakistan to the downfall of Indonesia's strongman, to the Viagra revolution and the sun quakes millions of years away. From the continuing ailment of Asia's economies and the historic Ireland peace accord, to natural disasters heralded by El Nino, to the death of the Middle East peace process. The world in 1998 is a busy and erratic place indeed.

But the most memorable event of this year, and probably until the end of this century, will be the 16th World Cup finals which opened to a colorful fanfare in Paris on Wednesday. For 33 days, until 12 July, the world's attention will be fixed on France as 32 countries battle on grass for the golden trophy which has come to symbolize everything that is good and noble for billions of people. For more than a month, politics will go into forced, albeit temporary, retirement, as people from all walks of life will be glued to their TV sets to cheer their favorite teams.

The interesting thing about the World Cup is that it easily and remarkably transcends political rifts, cultural barriers and religious fanaticism. In effect, emotions build up and interest gathers pace even as national teams are eliminated and the fight narrows down to a mighty few. Fans immediately switch their support for squads belonging to countries they have never seen and are as far away as Brazil, Argentina, Nigeria and Cameroon.

The World Cup offers a precious respite from the sobering and often depressing realities of our planet: a world whose legacy is more of poverty, backwardness, poisoned seas and air, and political instability than of common happiness and goodness. It is a welcome change, a precious gift to billions of people who suddenly, and spontaneously, become united in their relish for good sport and fair competition. In this race for world glory, the favorites are not always those with economic muscle or nuclear warheads.

The World Cup has resisted attempts to politicize it, although the threat will always be there. Our hope, and that of fans all over the world, is that this magnificent event will survive the narrow-minded schemes to spoil it and to use it as a political, or even criminal, platform. Yet, while the World Cup will divert attention from the evils that mangle our planet today, it will not make them disappear. Little wars may still go on in remote corners of the globe, while man's greed will continue to ravage our forests, waters and skies. Regional conflicts, such as the Middle East, will be there once the games are over and the world will go back to face the somber realities in Palestine, Sudan, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, among others. The world will be reminded again of the looming specter of a nuclear winter, taking place in the Indian Sub-continent or the disappearing forests of the Amazon. But, at least for a short while, we are all invited to join in this global festival and enjoy an event of noble competition and beautiful football away from it all!

Despite diplomatic efforts, border war rages

By John Daniszewski

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia—They fought side-by-side against a common enemy, shared Western-oriented policies and won admirers in Washington, where they were viewed as part of an emerging kind of new African government—lawful, clean and economically vibrant—bringing stability to a troubled continent.

Instead, to the distress of diplomats, and, indeed, many of their own people, Ethiopia and Eritrea have fallen into a sudden, seemingly senseless fratricidal war over a patch of arid, rocky land on their border that is devoid of any obvious economic or strategic value.

The fighting continued against a backdrop of renewed American, European and African efforts to get the two sides to stand down. But so far, there was no sign that a US-Rwandan plan for a cease-fire and disengagement has won the needed approval of both sides. Since combat started with little notice in early May, hundreds of people are believed to have perished in infantry and tank bat-

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Bloody hands all over

By Ramzy Baroud

IN A few weeks, I will graduate from the University of Washington, and my eyes will start looking back home to the Gaza Strip. I am looking forward to being back in my old refugee camp, Nuzeirat.

I have thought of my camp a lot, and asked myself, why am I going back there?

Gaza is the most densely populated and one of the most impoverished places in the world, with an unemployment rate of 75 percent and a human rights record that is violated by Israel on a daily basis. Would it not be a nightmare to return?

Our experiences are what shape us, our thoughts and our dreams.

Sometimes these experiences are weak, and sometimes they are strong enough that they leave lasting marks on your life. Sometimes, they leave lasting impressions on your mind. They are a window through which you view the world.

Growing up in my refugee camp has become my window. It should not have been my home. I should have been living in my small, peaceful village of Beit Daras. Unfortunately, the village was destroyed by Jewish terrorist groups in 1948. They destroyed another 417 villages and towns in the process of taking over a land that was not theirs to take.

The great Israeli leader Golda Meir once stated that "Palestinians do not exist." I am a living witness to prove her wrong. We were there. My family was there. The Jewish terrorists had the weapons and the support of the imperialists in Great Britain. They also had a claim that God had promised them 3,000 years ago to conquer the land and the peaceful Palestinian people. They killed more than 13,000 and exiled 1.2 million Palestinians in just a few short months.

Now my people are scattered throughout the world. My father and his family were forced to flee to the populated refugee camps in Gaza, which became the home of 0.4 million Palestinians. They lost all of

their land and possessions, and ran away barefoot looking for shelter. My mother, at six years old, lost her father when he decided to stay to defend their village with an old rifle and 15 bullets. She never saw him again. When I grew up, I realized that my family was extremely poor, like many other families around us. What I did know is that they loved their children and were

Palestinian you can find has a tragic story to tell.

When the Intifada started in 1987, protesting against Israeli oppression, I found myself carrying my school bag and books in one hand, and a rock in the other. When my 13-year-old friend Ra'ed was killed two feet away from me, I found myself taking the flag he carried, and chasing the soldiers with even greater resolve. When my 14-year-old cousin Wael was fatally shot with a rubber bullet in the neck, I wept and told his mother, "All of the youth in Palestine are your sons."

I will never forget Saed, a six-year-old child who was deliberately shot and killed by Israeli soldiers while he was collecting candy from our neighbors during our holy feast. His small, frail body flew through the air and landed just beside the window of my house as I looked on. During the Intifada, 3,000 Palestinians were killed, 30,000 were handicapped and tens of thousands injured.

Many University of Washington graduates are looking forward to a good job and a good life. My eyes cross the ocean looking for Palestine, the nation of heroes and martyrs. For me, Palestine has become a symbol of survival and hope. I know that when I return, before the car reaches our small cinder-

block house in the refugee camp, I will stop beside the graveyard of the martyrs to greet my friends and neighbors who died defending my homeland.

Before anything else, though, I will make the most important stop of all. I will stop at my mother's grave and read the Qur'an. She was killed in front of my eyes, when I was 14 years old. She collapsed under the vicious beatings of the Israelis, trying to protect me and my two brothers from their torture. In the refugee camp, I see my mother's face.

This article is by an Arab writer who lives in the United States

Defining Israel at 50

The Fifty Years War: Israel and the Arabs, by Ahron Bregman and Jihon El-tahri. BBC Books £7.99, 301 pages; *Israel: The Historical Atlas* by Simon Schuster, £25.20, 208 pages; *Israel 50* by Ben Caspit and Ilan Kfir, Alfa Communications, £29.95, 300 pages; *Those were the Years* by Nissim Mishi, Vedioth Ahronoth, £29.99, 336; *A Historical Atlas of The Jewish People from the time of the Patriarchs to the present*, by Eli Barnavi, Knepard £27.95, UK 300 pages.

Reviewed by Diana Bel-EI

ROUND ANNIVERSARIES are an interesting phenomenon: like specific birthdays, they simply appear in the midst of ongoing events, inspiring reflection and demanding celebration. While reflection is mostly a worthy pursuit, celebration is more problematic. In fact it is exceptionally difficult to align an anniversary in any country—or person—neither sources with a precise point of health, happiness, clear direction and general prosperity. To many it may seem that Israel is none, or very few, of the above. Yet nonetheless, Israel is 50. A round half-century. No longer a struggling young nation, not quite a mature nation.

Israel is many things to many people, not least to itself. A Jewish state, yet a secular one; a new nation state, yet one with endless and tangled ties to the past; a fighting state that has become a regional superpower; a fiercely independent state that still clings to its patron, the US. The list can go on and on; each point true, each also apparently contradicted by another. And that is precisely the problem with Israel: it is so difficult to define, which is why it is also often difficult to see it as any other normal country. Yet Israel is now 50: an apt time to accept both definition and normality.

The various facets of Israel, as also the question of normality, are well reflected in this array of books. Indeed, one of the strongest points of *The Fifty Years War* is its portrayal of the country as just another of the sides involved in the Middle Eastern conflict without qualifying it for better or worse. Since the same is true of the depiction of all the other sides, the events are the real focus of the narrative, rather than opinion or sentiment. The narrative is fascinating, suffused with a bizarre combination of both cynicism and naivety, and played out against the background of the cold war.

As such, it actually highlights the long and interesting process of political maturing, both in Israel and throughout the Arab world. For while Israel was a new and unwelcome introduction in 1948, in effect most of the states in the region were new, post-colonial formations. But they have all come a long way: the book reveals that in 1967 the USSR maliciously instigated the war, as part of its deal with the US, deeming the sides to be no more than pawns. They were—but paradoxically, the event also pushed them all towards the status of players, which is why subsequent negotiations, especially in the post-cold war era, have become increasingly harsh.

Based on the BBC TV series, the book often reads more as a thriller than a well-documented work of history, with plans, alliances, conspiracies and counter-conspiracies chasing each other from chapter to chapter. That said, the Syrian side is often missing from the historic events—the 1973 ceasefire not even mentioned—probably because there was much less access to relevant documents or people. This is important because it is clear the characters in the region tend to be long-standing and deeply bound into the conflict—unless they die or become eliminated—which may be one of its key problems.

Shimon Peres, for example, appears in the first chapter on the 1948 war, and is still an active politician in Israel, while Hosni Mubarak, president of Egypt, is already mentioned as deputy president in 1977, and

even the late, lamented Yitzhak Rabin, and Anwar Sadat were both assassinated after at least 30 years of prominent involvement. Then again, given Netanyahu, the odd turnover may also not be for the better. This is an excellent book of diplomatic history. That, however, is also its drawback, since the social context has often been as crucial as any negotiation in deciding events. For example, the 1973 war completely turned the tide of Israeli public opinion, not only against the long-ruling Labour party, which brought Begin and the Likud party to power in 1977, but also against war as the only existential option for the state. The ensuing peace treaties would not have been possible without this element—which Netanyahu still refuses to accept, despite regular opinion polls which prove it.

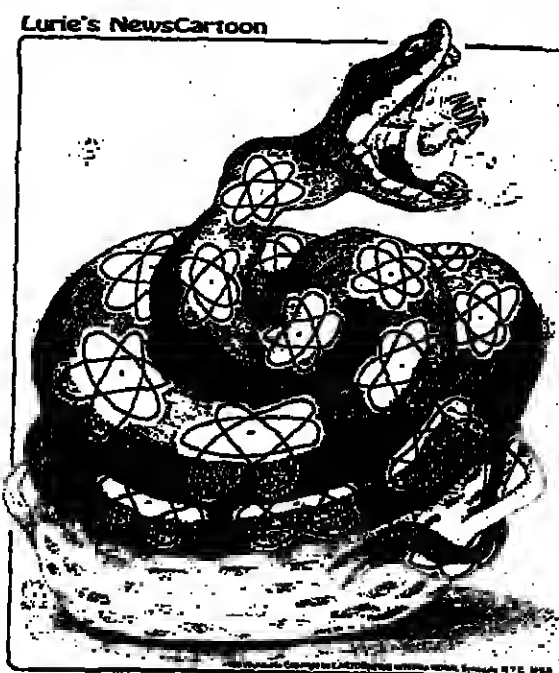
The social element, as also the changing public opinion, are well reflected in the two commemorative albums. Both proceed chronologically, each year depicted through pictures, newspaper cuttings and commentary, tracking immigration, sport, conflict, politics and many other aspects of life. Those *Were the Years* is probably the better of the two, since it also incorporates 50 compelling essays by prominent Israelis, most revealing the deeply contemplative, rather than celebratory mood of the nation.

Israel: The Historical Atlas is somewhat different: an atlas is a manifestation of history rather than an illustration. When discussing events, and especially wars, it is often the most useful way of tracking de-

velopments, and this book is no exception. *The Fifty Years War* becomes much clearer when read in conjunction with this atlas. Written by long-standing correspondents and photographers of the paper in Israel, this book also offers the flip-side of the view presented by the aforementioned two albums: here we get the foreigners' perception of the evolving country, both admiring and critical. More usefully, there is a whole chapter devoted to biographies of the main leaders of Israel, who appear throughout all the books—but without any context.

And finally, there is the Jewish aspect. *A Historical Atlas of the Jewish People* is another manifestation of history, which reflects that the Jews, like Israel, are difficult to define: a religion, a people, a way of life, an ethnicity. Though in album format, and very well illustrated, this book addresses all these facets essentially as a work of scholarship. In this way it also places the creation of the state within the context of Jewish history—and its continuity in the diaspora to this day—and a measure of proportion is gained: out of 300 pages, a mere 35 are given over to the Israel. Perhaps proportion is the most interesting lesson to be learnt from all these books: Israel is 50, old enough to become defined and normal; Israel is but 50, a mere milestone in the long path of history. Both reflection and celebration are due.

Financial Times Syndication



The Snake Chormer

What price?

IDEOLOGIES, SYSTEMS of belief, and readily available comprehensive prescriptions, have been the constant companions of humanity for a very long time. Obviously, such items are adopted for improving the condition of the people, and to provide viable alternatives for the society.

Unfortunately, the question of price and cost on the human dimension is never raised. What often happens is the human element becomes, in the course of development, subservient to the same ideologies that appeared in the first place to solve the problems of the human condition.

In this sense, mankind is supposed to adapt to the system of thought, rather than the system adapting itself to the needs and requirements of the people. At times, the means adopted by the exponents of ideologies, can make one wonder if the aims are worthwhile. Two examples come to mind: Algeria, and another Islamic state, Afghanistan.

The first is suffering a severe condition of terrorism, while the second is under the condition of total war. In both cases, there does not seem to be any perspective that justifies the death toll and the associated destruction.

If an opposition group follows the path of terrorism, and practices it indiscriminately against its own people, such as the paradigm of Algeria, what level of legitimacy can they expect on reaching a position of power or government themselves, having acquired that position through spilling blood and murder? Also, in the example of Afghanistan, amidst hunger, disease and pestilence (with the added bonus of hi-tech weapons and endless ammunition), what is there left to fight for, and to fight about? If it is to save the Afghan people, then killing them will not help to achieve this, and if it is to save the country, then destroying it is not the answer either. Should the real answer to these questions be to widen the share of the drugs trade, then I suppose everything is possible.

Under various guises, it is possible to use one ideology or another to justify one's own aims and personal objectives. The most easiest to date has been the utilization of religious sentiments to mobilize the inert feelings of political frustration, economic want, and the general manifestation of under-development, in an opposition package that provides the necessary cover of legitimacy and public support.

Yet, in both cases, it has been brimstone and fire that are the modus operandi for the opposition parties, rather than dialogue and negotiations. Everyone is a loser in this formula, including the underlying system of belief which was supposed to be the motivating factor for the upheaval in the first place. Islam is being abused in the name of sectarianism, tribalism, and illicit objectives.

The faith that has transformed peoples and nations from the state of ignorance, and enhanced their humanitarian qualities, radiating knowledge, compassion and civilization in the world, cannot be an instrument of death, destruction and suicide. It is perhaps too late now, to attempt an explanation for the atrocities in Algeria and Afghanistan.

Hopefully, terrorism will be eradicated at some point, because even death can lose its meaning and may be, the ammunition and weaponry will become harder to acquire in Afghanistan for the killing to continue. Better still, the drug trade may become less lucrative or less worthwhile to justify the fratricide. One thing for sure though, it is not late to save Islam from its worst proponents, and exert every effort to carry the enlightened Islamic faith to the world.

Islam, as the religion of justice, is neither a refuge for weakness and complacency, nor an excuse for killing and destruction. It has always aimed at elevating human nature above the natural instincts that drive anti-social actions. Thus, Islam cannot be what it came to negate.

Business scene

■ Al Mawred for Natural Cosmetics Co. (Rivage) was lately opened in Sahab under the auspices of Her Royal Highness Princess Rahmah Bint Al Hassan. The company will be in charge of manufacturing cosmetics purely from natural minerals and salts of the Dead Sea. Rivage is expected to be a trade mark for more than 85 cosmetic products that could compete with internationally well-known brands, in terms of high quality, packing and compliance with the ISO requirements. The volume of money invested in the establishment is in the region of JD 4 million and it has already started its commercial output. Its products include various cosmetics and skin care creams. Sources from the company pointed out that, the factory operates at a highly beneficial capacity and it has a big potential to export the product to international markets in Europe, Japan and America.

■ Total sales of the National Multi-Engineering Industries Co. (Namicco) recorded a rise of more than JD 6 million last year compared with JD 3.875 million in 1996. It maintained a relatively upward trend in its domestic sales of cables and wires. Namicco's total budget was about JD 49.56 million by the end of 1997, and its fixed assets are estimated at JD 37.9 million. Rights of shareholders were nearly JD 25.25 million by the end of last year.

■ The first National Agricultural Conference is expected to be convened this month at the Royal Cultural Center, Organized by the Association of Agricultural Engineers, the venue will tackle means of embarking on a national strategy to boost the performance of agricultural sector, discuss ways of solving problems facing it, come up with recommendations to support this vital sector, and develop greater agricultural resources. About 15 working papers are to be discussed at the three-day meeting covering the situation of botanic output, livestock product, fodder, related foodstuff industries, and other issues concerning man-power. Participants from 12 Arab states will also focus on reviewing agricultural policies on local and regional fronts.

Foreign Exchange

Wednesday, 10 JUNE

	Buy JD	Sell JD
US \$	0.7080	0.7100
£	1.1510	1.1568
DM	0.4124	0.4145
SPY	0.4801	0.4825
FRF	0.1227	0.1233
YEN (100)	0.5624	0.5652
DEU	0.3667	0.3685
LIT (100)	0.0419	0.0421

Marto: AFM sets the scene for a booming future

By Ilham Sadeq
Star Staff Writer

FINANCIAL MARKETS are seen as a mirror that reflect the level of economic activity in a country. This is why governments try to enhance the performance of these markets, encourage people to invest in stocks and carry out development enterprises.

For this purpose, a Securities Commission was formed late last year (after a Cabinet decision), to separate the traditional role of the securities market from the supervising one, and to achieve more activity and transparency at the Amman Financial Market (AFM).

As a result of the new law, a governmental supervisory committee was formed to control the capital market. A securities market will be established (Amman Bourse), as well as a deposit and transfer center. The latter will be directed by the private sector.

Sources at the AFM say that the Commission will soon approve the bylaw of the Bourse, signaling its commencement in compliance with the Securities Law.

Speaking on the latest measures to revive the shares market, Dr. Michael Marto, the head of the Securities Commission (SC) delivered a speech last week titled "Restructuring of the Capital Market, and its impact on Jordan's Economy". Dr. Marto reiterated that the main objective of the SC is to improve and develop the capital market in a way that helps the national economy to revive and prosper. "This will be through directing savings towards investments and enhance the role of the private sector to achieve economic growth," he said.

This objective should lead to tangible results, as the expertise of specialized technical cadres will help the Commission to supervise the issuance of securities, the process of trading in them, and the organizing of the Bourse activities.

This is not all. Other tasks to be shouldered by the SC cover monitoring the centers of deposits and transfers, and organize and control the process of disclosure of data relating to securities. This policy will make investors feel safer, when they notice that the capital market has adopted a transparent strategy which strengthens their trust in the AFM. This is widely considered to be the best method for emerging markets.

With the implementation of the SC plans, Dr. Marto feels more optimistic, and says that the capital market will reach a turning point when these plans are completed. Such a strategy will reorganize the market, enabling it to cope with the requirements of international standards.

Dr. Marto referred to the volume of trading at the AFM, noting that remarkable growth had been generated. "Turnover was up from JD 10 million in 1978 (when the market was established) to more than JD 1 billion in 1993. In 1996, turnover

was only JD 283 million. Some analysts attributed the fall in internal factors reflecting the anxious mood of the market, whilst others linked it to the frustration which followed the peace process and its effect of dampening expected profits.

However, many wealthy Jordanians preferred to deposit their money in banks in order to receive a regular interest, as opposed to running the risk of other investment schemes. This was because the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) had embarked on a policy to increase the bank interest rates, aimed at protecting the dinar and maintaining its strength against other currencies.

This issue has created controversy among experts and analysts. Some agree with the CBJ's philosophy, saying that the step has been targeted at building a certain level of hard currency. They argue that this year, the CBJ has allowed banks to cut the interest rate in order to achieve its goal.

Others stress that this step was the main cause behind the weak performance of the market, which was in a depressed state for many years. However, in light of new measures adopted last year to attract for-



foreign investments, the AFM has seen noticeable growth.

Thus, turnover went up last year to JD 425 million, and the official index of AFM recorded its highest level at 170 points, making a rise of 10 percent compared with 1996. This year, so far, share prices have increased by six percent compared with early 1998, and turnover was up by 64 percent.

Also, the market value of subscribed stocks rose in 1997 to reach JD 3.9 billion, against JD 3.5 billion by the end of 1996. By last May, the market value was about JD 4.3 billion.

Dr. Marto, commenting on these figures, said that the ratio between the market value to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

in Jordan is relatively high, currently standing at about 70 percent. "This shows the significance of the securities market in the national economy," he added.

As for the bonds market, Dr. Marto said that the SC will do its best to revive the market, as it has a special role in supplying necessary finance for investments, at a reasonable cost. So, the level of commission and fees taken on these bonds will be eased, aiding to the revival.

Business Chronicle

Investment flows into Jordan

SINCE IT was passed in 1995, the new Investment Promotion Law has helped a great deal in streamlining the economy and in reviving investment enterprises. Much focus was given to the need to attract foreign capital. Thus, the share of foreign ownership in some development ventures in the Kingdom has been raised, reaching as high as 100 percent in some sectors (excluding mineral and construction projects). This step reflected positively on the industrial and services sectors. Also, there was a noticeable growth in share dealings on the Amman Financial Market (AFM), as millions of dinars were pumped into the market by foreign investors. These investments came in the form of contributions aimed at expanding existing projects, he they joint ventures with Jordanian investors or purely foreign enterprises.

Nonetheless, the issue of foreign investment and its share in the economy has aroused doubts among some experts, who stress that priority should be given to inter-Arab joint investments which will provide support to the economy and maintain stable growth.

The volume of investment enterprises recorded a 54 percent growth in the first half of this year (as compared with the same time in 1997). This is a direct result of the incentives provided by the new Investment Promotion Law. So far, investments have totalled JD 131 million, compared to JD 84.1 million last year. The industrial sector received the lion's share of these new investments, and benefited more than any other sector from the new law. It has 53 projects, with about JD 32.3 million, which comprises around 25 percent of all foreign investment. This is followed by the hotel sector, agriculture, railways and hospitals. The size of the foreign share in these projects reached JD 33.2 million, standing at 25 percent of the overall investment.

However, Arab enterprises still make up 94 percent of the non-Jordanian investments, with the remaining share coming mainly from America, Canada, and Europe. The highest inter-Arab investments came from the Gulf enterprises, whose share totalled about JD 29 million, representing 94 percent of the overall Arab investment and 85 percent of non-Jordanian investment.

US Airways files for second Philadelphia-Paris flight

ARLINGTON, Va.—US Airways filed an application with the US Department of Transportation this week to operate a second daily transatlantic flight between Philadelphia and Paris, Charles de Gaulle Airport, beginning 1 March 1999.

The success of our existing Paris service, linked to the overwhelming support we receive from the Philadelphia community, reinforces our decision to add a second daily flight in this market," said Stephen M. Wolf, US Airways Group chairman and CEO. "This is yet another meaningful step for US Airways in becoming a much larger international carrier, and we are delighted that Philadelphia will play such an important role in this endeavor."

As of October, US Airways will operate one daily round trip flight from both Philadelphia and Pittsburgh to Paris, instead of two daily flights from Philadelphia. Today's application is designed to reinstate a second Philadelphia-Paris flight commencing in the Spring, giving US Airways a total of three daily flights to the French capital.

US Airways plans to operate the second flight, departing Philadelphia at 7:45 pm, with an arrival in Paris at 9:15 am the next day. The westbound flight is planned to depart Paris at 11:15 am, with an arrival in Philadelphia at 2:15 pm.

US Airways will operate the flights with the 203-seat Boeing 767-200 aircraft, featuring US Airways' new Envoy Class service.

With the added service, more than 70 communities will have convenient service to Paris con-

necting through Philadelphia International Airport.

In addition to the Philadelphia-Paris filing, US Airways has applications pending at the US Department of Transportation to serve Philadelphia-Milan and to serve London Heathrow from Philadelphia, as well as Charlotte, Boston, and Pittsburgh.

US Airways and US Airways Express operate nearly 400

daily flights from Philadelphia, where the airline employs more than 4,000 people. US Airways explained nearly 6.4 million passengers on Philadelphia in 1997.

US Airways also operates transatlantic flights from Philadelphia in Amsterdam, Frankfurt, London, Madrid, Munich and Rome.

With the June 1 launch of MetroJet, US Airways, US Air-

ways Express, US Airways Shuttle and MetroJet serves more than 208 destinations worldwide, including 38 states in the US, Bermuda, Cancun, Grand Cayman, Montego Bay, Nassau, San Juan, St. Thomas, St. Maarten, St. Croix, and the Canadian destinations of Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Hamilton, and London, Ontario.

Lacking capital, Russia struggles to pursue free-market capitalism

By David Hoffman

MOSCOW—"I don't have much time. I have to get to the bank," apologized Sergei Marashev, a third-generation textile worker, holding a cellular telephone in one hand. In the distance, beyond the walls of his office, could be heard a muffled roar, the sound of looms churning out white cotton bedsheet and soft fabric for diapers.

Marashev, technical director of the Izmailovskaya Manufacturing Co., a Moscow textile factory dating back to Imperial Russia, has good reason to be worried about the bank. To understand the significance of the financial turmoil that has enveloped Russia in recent weeks, Marashev needs to look no further.

He has a single, six-month bank loan. This is the longest

term available in Russia today. The annual interest rate is 42 percent at the moment, but this could be on the increase again soon. The Central Bank recently raised its benchmark lending rate to 150 percent for a while, before dropping it back to 60 percent.

For Marashev's factory, which he said is operating on the edge of profitability, the outlook for additional financing is bleak.

His predicament is at the root of Russia's economic troubles six years after the collapse of Soviet central planning. The country has set out on a course of free-market capitalism, but as things stand now, Russia is starved for capital. "There is no capital coming in to either households or corporations," said Al Branch, an economist at the Russian European Center for Economic Policy.

There are many reasons for Russia's current troubles. In the last six months, financial markets here have been rocked by three waves of investor flight and panic. On each of these occasions, interest rates have rocketed sky-high, tightening the choke-hold on the real economy. The Russian economy was expected to return to growth this year, after many years of free fall, but all signs of a revival are currently looking a little bleak, despite inflation remaining low.

Moreover, the economy is dominated by a series of politically well-connected tycoons and their empires. Virtually all enterprises, workers and the government are constricted in a vast web of debts and harder trade. Russians still tend to keep their savings under mattresses, rather than putting them into investments. The larger restructuring of industry has lagged, with firms still struggling with obstacles ranging from unreformed bureaucrats to ubiquitous protection rackets.

In addition, Russia was hit in recent months by two external shocks. The first was the Asian emerging markets crisis last October, which rattled investor confidence in what was then the high-flying Russian stock market. The second was the collapse in world oil prices this spring. Oil is Russia's major export, and the decline of world prices to \$14 a barrel hurt oil companies and further dented government revenues.

The last few weeks have been especially trying, pushing the Russian economy almost to the brink. Trying to stem the exodus of investors and stave off devaluation of the ruble, the Central Bank raised interest rates to punishingly high levels. The specter of ruble devaluation is especially worrisome because Russia's banking system is extraordinarily vulnerable, owing an estimated \$15 billion in short-term foreign

loans. For the West, as well as for Russian policy-makers, the riddle now is how to avoid another wave of investor panic, while trying to press ahead with overdue and badly needed structural reforms.

Only last summer, Russian officials were speculating confidently that the current three-year, \$9.2 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund would be the last. But now, Western lenders are pondering whether to offer Russia a new stand-by financial package with a goal of easing the government's immediate short-term debt problems.

At the same time, they are also debating how far to go in demanding more progress from Russia on structural reform. One argument is that it would be a mistake to give more money to Russia without benchmarks leading towards reform. The counter argument says that it would be a mistake not to give money to Russia now, just because reform is incomplete.

Charles Blitzer, director of emerging markets research for Donaldson, Lufkin & Jerette Securities Corp. in London, and a former chief economist for the World Bank in Moscow, said the short-term goal is to shore up confidence that Russia can get its tattered public finances in order.

"There are no magic buttons to push at the moment," he added. "The reality is that you have weak governance, and this

shows up in many dimensions. What is most essential for this government is to deliver on their commitments and not to commit to something they can't deliver."

At the center of attention is the black hole in Russia's budget. Tax collection has slumped. Yeltsin appointed a special commission, allowing it to use police tactics in forcing laggard companies to pay up, but it did not work. Last week, Yeltsin sacked the head of the tax service, and replaced him with Boris Fyodorov, a former acting finance minister and economic reformer, who has promised a broad assault on deadbeats. In addition, a new tax code with lower rates has been drafted, but this remains mired in the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, controlled by Communists and Nationalists. "Everyone pays lip service to tax reform," said Blitzer, "but at the end of the day, you have a Duma more interested in bringing down the regime than consensus. You have powerful vested interests, particularly in the regions, and large enterprise groups, who are all doing well under the present system."

Also being watched closely is the government's growing cost of servicing its short-term debt. Over the last two years, Russia has borrowed more and more to cover the budget deficit, using high-yielding, short-term bonds known as GKOs. The borrowing has created a snowballing effect, with the

286.3 million, but within two years this amount had almost doubled to JD 400 million. The peak in value was recorded in 1996, however, as the value of checks which have no account or deposit rose sharply to JD 442.2 million. The highest number of bounced checks was recorded last year: a figure of 460,000 checks.

Banking sources say that this never ending problem is a reflection of the fragile trading process, feeble economic activity and the deterioration of purchasing powers. Many businessmen and merchants have concluded big deals using checks, but have failed to make the payments due, because of insufficient funds at the appointed hour.

Observers involved with this phenomenon stress that tough laws are required to act as a deterrent, otherwise the problem will continue on its upward spiral.

interest in the bonds eating up more and more of the federal budget, creating a higher deficit and a need for more borrowing at higher interest rates. The six-month bond rates were 40 percent in May, but these rose to 72 percent last week.

Breach said that last year, Russia spent 25 percent of its federal budget on interest payments. For the first four months of this year, that share had already climbed to 32 percent. The higher bond rates have a double-edged effect: costing the government more, and soaking up Russia's scarce capital due to the attractive yields on offer.

Even supporters, say the new government led by Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko, while committed to economic reform, has been slow to react to the current economic crisis. A coal miners' strike paralyzed rail transport, parliament approved a bill limiting foreign investment in the electricity monopoly, and then one government bureaucrat suggested ineptly that perhaps Russia should stop paying interest on its debt, all of which frightened investors.

"It created a critical mass of imbalances," said Yegor Gaidar, an economist and former prime minister, told the Moscow News, adding that some investors decided to speculate on a ruble fall, while others "urgently fled the Russian market."

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

MARKET WATCH

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jordan Insurance National Industry Arab Sulphur Chemical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arab Electricity Alman International Tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jordan Trade Center United Financial General Investment 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperation Bank Jordan Criminal Trade Arab Bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real Arab Electricity Cooperation Bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JIMCO International Trade Al Arab Investment 	

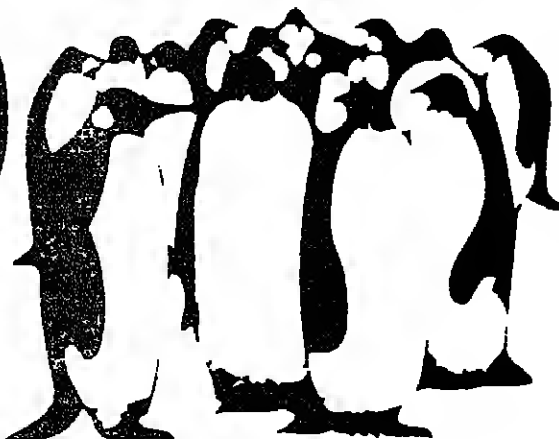
General Price Pointer	171.090	170.290	172.060
Trade Volume	1275985	1677395	1208992
Stock Volume	431676	366476	548811
Highest Traded Stocks	338136	1282478	580648
Arab Bank		Arab Bank	

All data provided by ACCESS Tel: 646868 Fax: 646949

The Star <http://star.arabia.com>

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

Online

ROUND
OWN

Cooperation through music

AS PART of the ongoing cultural cooperation between the European Union and Jordan, the European Commission and the National Music Conservatory signed an agreement last week to establish a Faculty Chamber Orchestra. The objective is to promote classical music and Arab compositions.

The new Chamber Orchestra will comprise 13 members of the National Music Conservatory teaching staff and will be conducted by Mr Jean Philippe Rouchon, Head of Teaching, at the National Music Conservatory. Financing from the EC, to the tune of JD 16,700, will cover the costs of the Orchestra for one year, during which three concerts are planned in Jordan.

The long-term objectives of the Orchestra are to promote classical music in the region and, once the Orchestra is full-fledged and operational, venture to promote contemporary Arab compositions in Europe.

The Orchestra will serve as a hub for cultural dialogue by inviting high caliber musicians to the Middle East and providing employment and exchange opportunities for music graduates, in Jordan and other neighbouring countries.

The agreement was signed by Mrs Hind Sharif Nasser, chairperson of the Committee of the National Music Conservatory, and Mr Yves Gazzo, Head of the European Commission delegation to Jordan.

Spanish Culture

Influence of Lorca lives on

By Natasha Twal
Special to the Star

About 100 years have passed since the eminent Spanish laureate Federico Garcia Lorca was born in Granada in 1898. On this special occasion the Spanish Cultural Center, "Instituto Cervantes" in Amman, is holding a special tribute in his honor that started last month and consists of various cultural activities. Its aim is to introduce to Jordanians the glamour of Lorca's majestic *oeuvre*.

Lorca is Spain's most articulate poet and playwright. More than any other of European poets of the 20th century, his lyrical masterpieces have received much acclaim and translated into many languages.

He was born to an educated family in Fuente Vaqueros. A poet, dramatist, musician and an artist, he attended the University of Granada, where he came to acquire the skills and techniques of a literary education.

In 1919, he went to the Residencia de Estudiantes in Madrid where he met all the great writers, critics and scholars who visited the center which was a flourishing place of cultural liberalism. In 1920, he went to New York where he published his book, *Poeta en Nueva York* (A Poet in New York).

Upon his return to what was then republican

Spain, he devoted himself to theatre and became the co-director of La Barraca, a government-sponsored student theater tour company.

His most famous play that was first performed in 1935 is *llanto por la muerte de Ignacio Sanchez Mejias* (Lament for Ignacio Sanchez Mejias). The play was basically an expression of sorrow for a bullfighter who died.

But there is more than meets the eye. What characterized Lorca the most was his versatility.

He could and did adapt to the different historical stages that art went through: the classical, romantic and surrealist.

In 1928 he wrote *Romancero Gitano* (The Gypsy-Ballad Book). The work represented his most mature and unified poetry. It shows the spirit of Lorca's homeland in a style that is full of musical and dramatic events.

He also wrote classical plays, pantomimic interludes, puppet plays, and three tragedies: *Bodas de sangre* (Blood Weddings 1933), *Yerma* (1934) and *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* (The House of Bernarda Alba 1936).

But during that year his life came to an end when he was tragically murdered in Granada by nationalist partisans in mysterious circumstances just after the outbreak of the Spanish civil war in 1936.

One striking example of the activities held by the Spanish Center in Lorca's homage is a classical guitar concert of Lorca's composition that took place last month at the Union Bank hall. It was performed by Spanish guitarist Rafael Serrallet, considered to be one of the best guitarists of his generation.

Another event that took place last month at the Royal Cultural Center is the performance of Amargo, a play based on Lorca's poetry masterpiece *Romancero Gitano*. It was performed by Teatro de la Ribera, which is a group of professional actors who came all the



way from Spain to perform this play.

A painting contest was another interesting event that took place last week at the Spanish Center. Several Jordanian painters and other resident painters from different Arab countries participated in this competition by displaying their artistic works that have something to do with Lorca or his works, stated Lola Infante, the director of the Center.

The jury was presided by the Spain's ambassador in Amman Mr Eudaldo Mirapeix and the president of the Jordanian Plastic Artists Association, Dr Khalid Khreis.

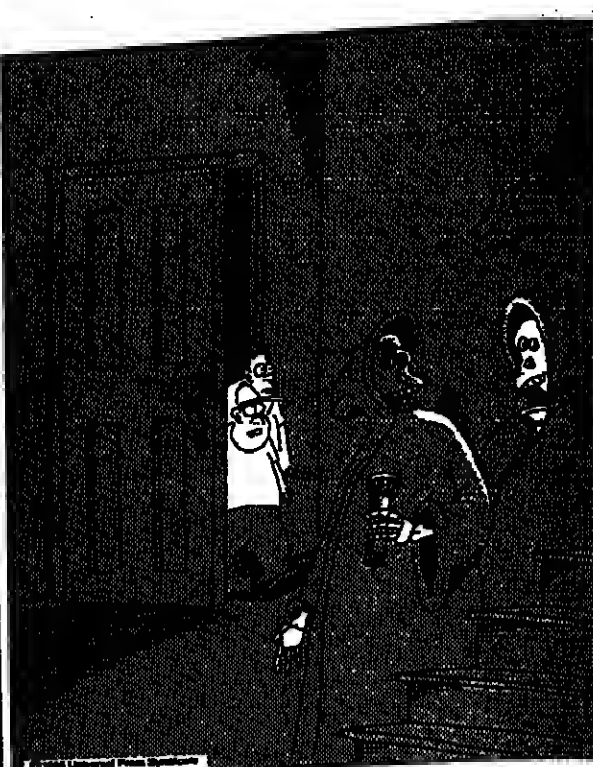
Mr Ibrahim Al Abdali from Iraq won the painting contest and was awarded a trip to Spain, staying one week at the Residence of Students.

Yet, other events are still taking place as part of this unique program. There is a conference at Darat Al Funun on 9 July about the influence of Lorca on contemporary Arab literature. Arab poets and specialists from the Middle East and Spain are taking part.

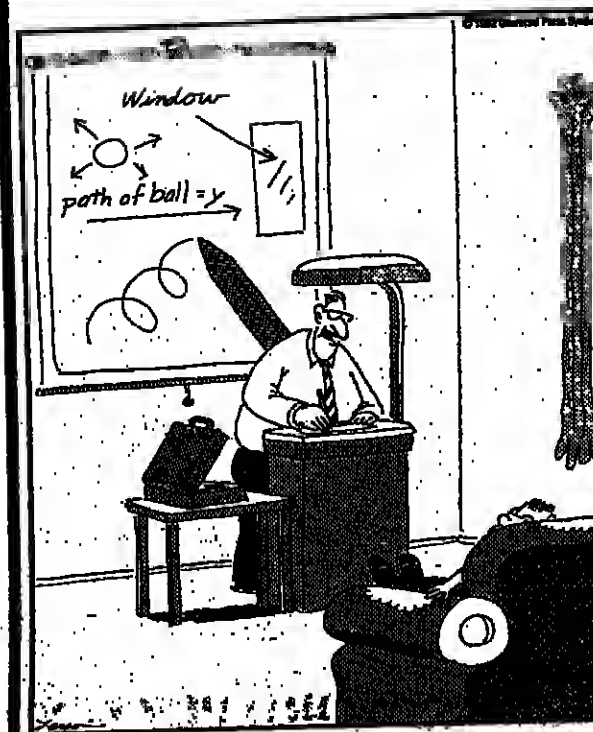
Lorca is a virtuoso who very much added to the depth of Spanish culture. This heavy-loaded program presents a genuine contribution to the world of literature.

THE FAR SIDE

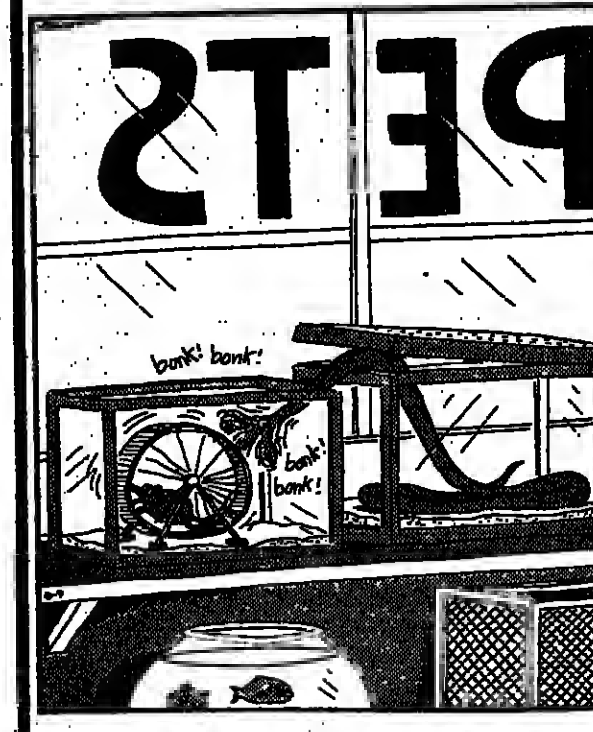
By GARY LARSON



"Carl, maybe you should just leave your flashlight off. We're trying to scare these kids, not crack 'em up."



Eventually, Billy came to dread his father's lectures over all other forms of punishment.



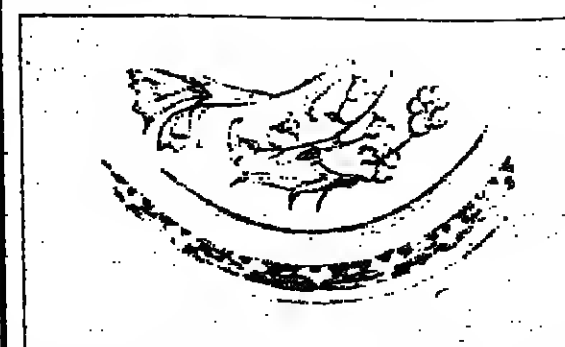
AGENDA

Exhibitions

■ At Darat al Funun (Jabal al Welbdeh), an exhibit of graphic and oil works on paper by Tunisian artist Guider Tyld opens on May 25 at 6 pm. The show, comprising work done between 1973 and 1995, will run until June 26.

■ Also at Darat al Funun, a new collection of Contemporary Arab Art will be on display until June 25.

■ "Letters of Clay and Silk," a homage to Muhideen Ibn Arabi is an exhibition by Algerian artist Rachid Korachi that opens at Darat Al Funun on June 3. It is held in cooperation with the French Cultural Center. After the opening an Algerian Music Concert will be held at the Darat at 8 pm.



■ The Salt Collection of pottery, tiles, mosaics, fabrics, linens tablecloths and more is on display at the Jordan Design and Trade Center. The exhibition continues till 25 June.

Artist Rafiq Lahham displays much talent

A painter with class

By Kofi Attah
Special to the Star

Mohammed Rafiq Al Lahham's influence on contemporary Arab art especially in Jordan, is beyond refute. It is true that there are many talented Arab artists, both young and old, but after visiting his latest

exhibition at the Amman City Hall where he employed many sophisticated techniques, it becomes obvious that the Syrian painter who was born in Damascus 1932 is in a class of his own.

Bordering on the abstract, his paintings show emotional depth that transcends beyond the brilliant colors. Powerful brush-strokes on the canvas create a haunting sensation, with strong spiritual messages. And the magnitude of his work is due to his early training in Dar Al Sunat wai Funun in Damascus and then at the San Giacomo Institute in Rome, and at the College of Fine Arts in New York.

His works tackle a number of themes, such as the God-Man relationship, interfaith dialogue and co-existence of religions, with a boldness that might be shocking to many conservative members of the Arab public. He was quoted as saying, "Paintings are not only a form of art, but also a medium of expression." True to this philosophy, he is able to express his message in a clear and concise manner.

Lahham, who is a founding member of the Arab Plastic Arts Association established in 1971, has used various forms of media in all of the 37 pieces, like acrylic on paper, along with paint, collage and oil on canvas. They not only capture the eye and imagination of the visitor, but

also send strong visual messages.

As usual, most of his paintings are of Arab calligraphy, devoted to the glorification of Allah. This is found in exhibit 27 of *Bismillahi Rahman Al Rahim* (In the name of God, the gracious and the merciful) and in exhibit 28 that is simply titled "Allah" (God), in which he used color lithography to attract the visitor's attention to the grandeur of God. His ability to

recreate scenes are outstanding. He creates the impression that Jerusalem is a holy city, by painting a number of minarets and domes depicting Al Aqsa mosque.

In his painting called *Imama* (Motherhood), he proves his skill and technique in using intersecting lines. *Imama* might show how much he has been affected by the childhood relation with his mother. *Al Shabab* (The Youth) indicates streams of life, whilst *Al Azhar* (Flowers) show the tenderness of life.

Lahham is also a founding member of the Jordan Plastic Artists Association. He has participated in several exhibitions in Syria, Egypt, Bangladesh and Taiwan.

He represented Jordan in the International Arab Conference (IAC) in Amsterdam in 1969 and was the exhibition manager for the Jordanian exhibition during the "Jordan Week" in Tokyo in 1995. He has won several Arab and International awards, including the Union of Arab Plastic Artists Gold Shield, awarded in 1981, along with the Al Kawqab Medal (Second Class) awarded by His Majesty King Hussein in 1988. He has worked in the Ministry of Tourism. His exhibition is currently at the Al Medina gallery, alongside the works of other contemporary Arab artists, which is a chain of exhibitions laid on by the Amman City Hall. It continues until 15 June 1998.



Al Lahham



The Star's GUIDE

Programs on JTV
from 13 — 18 June

ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY
3:00—Holy Koran
3:10—Johnny Quest
3:30—I Wanna Be...
4:00—Neighbors
4:30—Ocean Wilds
5:00—French Program
6:00—Acapulco Bay
7:00—News in French
7:15—Discovery Magazine
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—You Bet Your Life
8:00—Cinema, Cinema
8:30—Prism
9:10—Sirens
10:00—News At Ten
10:30—Feature Film: *Final Appeal*, starring: Brian Dennehy and Tom Moson
12:00—Country Music

SUNDAY
3:00—Holy Koran
3:10—The Pumpkin Patch
3:20—The Pink Panther
3:30—Skippy
4:00—The American Chart Show
5:00—In The Wild
6:00—French Program
7:00—News in French
7:15—A Tour in France
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Life's most Embarrassing Moments
8:00—Taste of Africa
8:30—Challenges
9:10—Renegade
10:00—News At Ten
10:30—Correlli
12:00—The History of Rock & Roll

MONDAY
3:00—Holy Koran
3:10—Highlander
3:30—Raider of the South Pacific
4:00—Neighbors
4:30—Last Frontiers



The History of Rock & Roll, Sunday at 12:00 pm.

5:00—French Program
7:00—News in French
7:15—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Hope and Gloria
8:00—Perspective
9:10—99-1 "Stone"
10:00—News At Ten
10:30—Law and Order
11:10—Bay Watch Nights

TUESDAY
3:00—Holy Koran
3:10—Pro Star
3:30—Small Talk

4:00—Bordertown
4:30—The Health Show
5:00—Route of Capricorn
6:00—French Program
7:00—News in French
7:15—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Step by Step
8:00—What would you do
8:30—Rhodes
10:00—News At Ten
10:30—Feature Film: *Perfume of the Cyclone*, starring: Jeff Meak and Marcel Van
12:00—Metro Café

FRANCE 98 COUPE DU MONDE

World Cup on
JTV channel 2

- Daily World Cup briefing at 5:00pm
- News at Ten at 9:30pm
- Live football match at 10:00pm daily.



WEDNESDAY
3:00—Holy Koran
3:10—Mr. Bogus Show
3:30—Castle of Adventure
4:00—The Album Show
5:00—French Program
6:00—Acapulco Bay
7:00—News in French
7:15—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Buddies
8:00—Envoy Special
9:10—Kung Fu
10:00—News At Ten
10:30—The Golden Moment (Mini Series)

THURSDAY
3:00—Holy Koran
3:10—Dinky Die
3:30—The Animal Park
4:00—French Programs
4:30—Blue Water Dreaming
5:00—NBA Games
6:00—Slider
7:00—News in French
7:15—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Big Brother Jake
8:00—Great Romance
8:30—Dr. Quinn, The Medicine Woman
9:10—The Oprah Winfrey Show
10:00—News At Ten
10:30—Feature Film: *Rio Shannon*, starring: Blain Brown and Shoy Astar
12:00—Can't Hurry Love

FRIDAY
3:00—Holy Koran
3:10—Teddy Ruxpin
3:30—Wishbone
4:00—He Shoots, He Scores
4:30—Rhodes
5:30—The French Program
7:00—News in French
7:15—French Program

7:30—News Headlines
7:35—The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
8:00—Life on the Internet
8:30—The Brain
9:10—Babylon-5
10:00—News At Ten
10:30—The Golden Moment (Mini Series)

PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS

SAMEDI
17:00—Fant pas rêver
19:00—Le Journal
19:15—Magazine L'enfant de Colomb

DIMANCHE
18:00—Bonne espérance
19:00—Le Journal
19:15—E=M6

LUNDI
17:00—Thalassa
19:00—Le Journal
19:15—Cinq sur Cinq

MARDI
18:00—Les cours brûlés (6)
19:00—Le Journal
19:15—Fractales

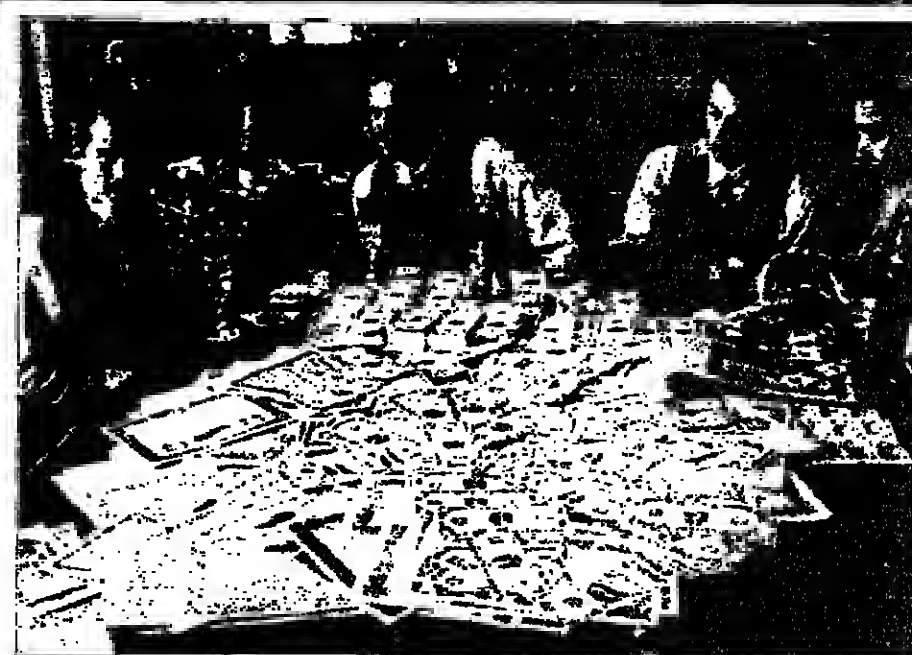
MERCREDI
17:00—Ushuaia
19:00—Le Journal
19:15—E=M6

JEUDI
16:00—L'école des fans
19:00—Le Journal
19:15—Atomes crochus

VENREDI
17:30—Fort Boyard
19:00—Le Journal
19:15—Allô la Terre

Programs are subject to change by JTV

MOVIE



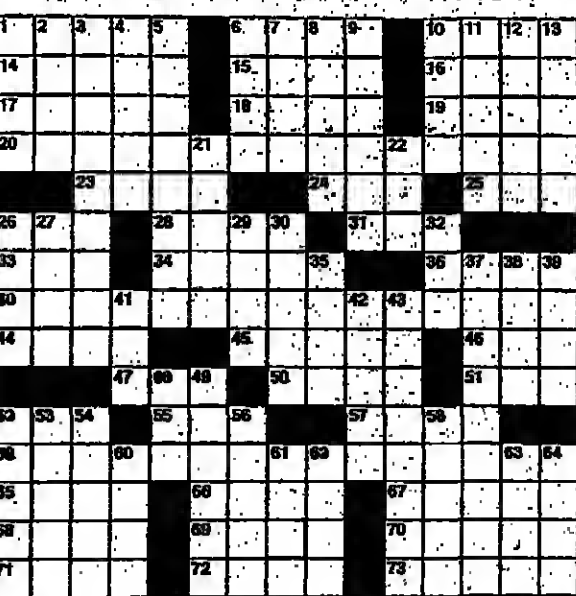
The Newton Boys

Matthew McConaughey stars in "The Newton Boys" the true story of the Newton brother, bank robbers in the 20's.

Directed by Richard Linklater.



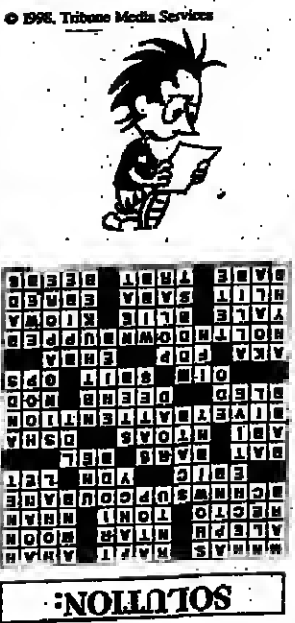
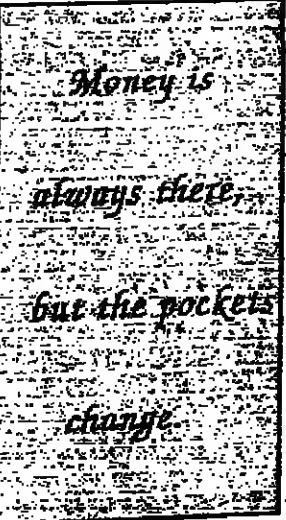
CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- ACROSS**
1. Conveyance for mail and parcels
 10. Moby Dick's pursuer
 14. Yellow letter
 15. Leading
 16. Fashion
 17. Right-hand side
 18. Tiger
 19. Terrific
 20. Times of day
 21. Sleets
 22. Author
 23. Ambler
 24. There are
 25. To a bit
 26. Permit
 27. Cope
 28. Don't write
 29. Snigger's
 30. "Cocoon" hero
- DOWN**
1. Greek covered walkway
 26. Workplace
 34. Concentrates exclusively
 40. Pure
 44. Farm
 45. Inventor
 46. Top of
 47. Barely remembered
 50. Scales of justice
 51. Doctors
 52. Scurvy
 53. Jesters
 54. Sheer
 55. Swinging
 56. Meal
 57. Eaten
 58. Eaten
 59. Eaten
 60. Eaten
 61. Eaten
 62. Eaten
 63. Eaten
 64. Eaten

OFF THE WALL

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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: Debates rage, but the outcome is obvious. Practical common sense is going to win out over lofty ideas.

Aries (March 21-April 19). Long-distance interests conflict with obligations closer to home. Since money is tight, perhaps you can do the travel electronically.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Don't take a financial risk. Don't make a loan to a flaky friend either. You could pool money with a friend to travel, however.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Looks like you'll be stirred into action. If you have the facts at your fingertips you'll be able to overcome the opposition, but it's a tough fight.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Concentrate on work. There's more coming in every minute. Use secret information you receive to complete a project.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be so busy falling in love you may not have time for anything else. Unfortunately, there are a couple of other things on your schedule.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Confusion reigns. Keep track of the changes or you'll wind up in the wrong place at the wrong time. You'll be very lucky in love.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're smart and that's good. Stick close to home. Although you'd like to travel, you'd better wait.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your shopping expedition should go well. Don't go too far into debt. You still have to pay it off, remember?

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're under increasing pressure to settle down to work. It'll be impossible to ignore the stuff that's stacking up, especially if you need that paycheck.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You work hard to keep up with a demanding schedule. Don't worry. You're looking very good.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Friends and lovers take up all your attention. You're under pressure, probably of your own making. You'll have to hit it hard to keep up with the pack.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Confusion is everywhere so don't feel bad if you get some on you. If you just figure it out intuitively, you have a better chance of understanding.

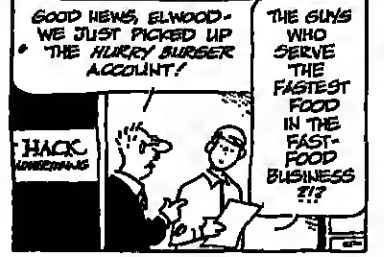
If You're Having a Birthday This Week: You'll learn how to work with a partner this year, possibly out of necessity.

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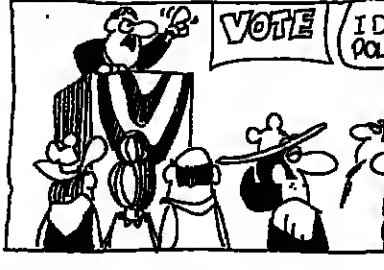
PERKY & BEANZ by Russell Myers



ELWOOD by Ben Templeton & Tom Forman

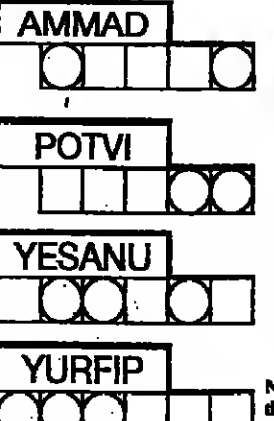


CATFISH by Fred Wagner & Tom Cone



Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: THE "O O O O" OF THE "O O O O"

Answer: THE COWBOY'S HORSE IMPULSIVELY REACTED TO THIS

Words of Wisdom

If you tell little white lies long enough, you'll soon be color-blind.

Don't work to make a living; work to make a life.

Nothing has the strength of the well-chosen word.

Anxiety about what might happen does nothing but sap strength.

A little modesty is a good thing; too much modesty is hypocrisy.

You aren't a coward just because you are fearful. The courageous fight despite their fears, while cowards run away because they're afraid.

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CHARLIE



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Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

33 jours, 32 équipes, 64 matches, 704 joueurs, 400 buvettes, 2,5 millions de spectateurs. Pendant plus d'un mois, vivez la passion de la Coupe du monde de football en France. À cette occasion, le Jourdain vous propose un supplément spécial pour mieux suivre le dernier grand événement sportif du millénaire.



Pour ce supplément spécial Coupe du monde, remerciements particuliers à Marie, dans le rôle de « La Relectrice » Zaki Qurban, pour sa touche artistique Fabrice Randoux, Monsieur « Plus d'Info »

France 98, c'est parti !

Ouverture des hostilités hier avec Brésil-Écosse. La Coupe du monde, la dernière du millénaire, la France l'attendait depuis 1938, date du dernier Mondial dans l'Hexagone. Il lui faut maintenant prouver qu'elle mérite cet honneur.



En 1994, aux États-Unis, le Brésil magique du capitaine Dunga remporta le précieux trophée pour la quatrième fois. La sélection de Ronaldo sera-t-elle capable de renouveler l'exploit cette année en France ?

Quinze ans. Quinze ans c'est le temps qu'il aura fallu à la France pour obtenir l'organisation de la XVIII^{ème} Coupe du monde de football, la dernière coupe du millénaire. Quinze ans entre le moment où le président de la Fédération française de football d'alors fit part de son désir d'accueillir le grand rendez-vous mondial du seul sport universel et le moment de la finale tant attendue le 12 juillet, dans le tout nouveau Stade de France, à Saint-Denis.

Et encore, lorsque Fernand Sastre pose la candidature de la France, le 21 juillet 1983, auprès de la Fédération internationale. S'agit-il de la Coupe du Monde 1990. Selon une règle tacite d'alternance entre l'Europe et l'Amérique du Sud, alors les deux seuls continents footballistiques de la planète, après le Mondial espagnol de 1982 et celui de 1986, déjà attribué au Mexique, la compétition doit revenir à un pays européen. Les Français décident cependant de se désister pour 1990 au cas où l'Italie - qui a reçu le deuxième Mondial, en 1934, alors que la France a organisé la Coupe en 1938 - serait choisie, et de transférer leur candidature sur 1998.

Il faut dire que les Français, après avoir démarré le siècle tambour battant, ont un peu frustres de grands événements sportifs : Jeux Olympiques d'été en 1900 et d'hiver en 1924, Coupe du monde de football en 1938 donc. Après

guerre, seuls les JO d'hiver de Grenoble (1968) et d'Albertville (1992) viennent redorer le blason d'une France d'autant plus absente de la scène sportive internationale que ses représentants ne ramènent pas des médailles. C'est pourquoi les plus hautes autorités de l'État s'investissent à fond dans le soutien à la candidature du Mondial de football. Ce sera fait, dès janvier 1989, par une lettre très officielle de François Mitterrand dans laquelle le président de la République assure Joao Havelange de « l'appui sans réserve des pouvoirs publics français à cette candidature ».

2,5 milliards de francs

La France n'est pas seule sur le coup et doit compter avec sept concurrents, certains de grande notoriété : Angleterre, Brésil, Chili, Inde, Maroc, Portugal et Suisse. Et c'est à New York, en décembre 1991, lors du tirage au sort des éliminatoires du Mondial américain, que les Français présentent leur dossier. Ensuite, tout va très vite. Mi-avril 1992, la commission technique de la FIFA se rend en France pour examiner le dossier de candidature et donne l'impression d'être satisfaite. Ce sera le cas, puisque le 2 juillet 1992, par douze voix contre sept au Maroc, elle confie à la France l'organisation du Mondial. Une condition est mise cependant : que le pays se dote d'un stade de 80.000 places, qui de toute façon lui manque cruellement... depuis 1920. Fernand Sastre et



Tirages de maillot, tacles par derrière, anti-jeu. Aux hommes en noir de faire respecter le fair-play sur le terrain dans une compétition aux enjeux extraordinaires.

l'ancien capitaine de l'équipe de France, Michel Platini, sont portés à la co-présidence du Comité français d'organisation qui voit le jour le 10 novembre 1992. Il restait alors 2.000 jours pour organiser une compétition qui, regroupant pour la première fois 32 équipes, comprend 64 matches - en 5 semaines dans 10 villes. Pour ce faire ils pouvaient compter sur un budget de fonctionnement de 2.500 millions de francs, soit environ un quart de ce que la Coupe coûtera à la France. C'est le prix à payer

pour montrer que la France est prête à entrer dans le troisième millénaire.

Les Géants de Lens

On sait déjà que ce Mondial sera l'événement le plus médiatisé du XX^{ème} siècle. Près de 12.000 journalistes couvriront l'événement, dont près de 6.000 journalistes et techniciens de télévision qui assureront plus de 6.000 heures de programme. L'audience cumulée des retransmissions télévisées est estimée à 37 milliards de téléspectateurs à travers le monde. Deux fois plus que les Jeux Olympiques. La seule finale du 12 juillet 98 sera suivie par 1,7 milliard de téléspectateurs.

La France, ainsi sous les projecteurs de tous les médias du monde, aura à cœur de donner la meilleure image d'elle-même. Image d'un pays aux technologies avancées et aux transports performants (malgré la mauvaise volonté d'Air France), image d'un pays qui sait faire la fête.

Le Comité français d'organisation entend en effet que chaque ville organisatrice offre aux supporters une « troisième mi-temps » qui les invite à découvrir les richesses de leur patrimoine culturel, touristique ou gastronomique. Le tout dans une joyeuse ambiance.

Après le grand show parisien de mardi dernier, Nantes va se plonger dans les rythmes endiablés du Brésil. Montpellier suivra sa caravane africaine. À Lyon, on découvrira la fresque géante du Mondial. À Saint-Denis, Berlioz enchante la Basilique. Lens fera défiler ses Géants, marionnettes animées de 9 mètres de haut. Saint-Étienne s'ouvrira de littérature étrangère. À Marseille, on parcourra le monde dans un jardin. Bordeaux accueillera sa finale de Coupe du monde des enfants. Enfin, Toulouse s'ouvrira de culture occitane. Tous les jours, foot ou pas, la Coupe du monde promet de faire de la France le théâtre sportif et culturel d'un gigantesque fête à l'échelle planétaire.

Tourisme

Et si les Français disaient bonjour !
Une Coupe du monde pour lancer la saison : une aubaine pour tous les acteurs du tourisme, prêts à accueillir les visiteurs étrangers et à leur donner le goût de la France.

La France et ses richesses touristiques attirent de plus en plus de monde : de 61,5 millions en 1996 le nombre de touristes est passé à plus de 66 millions en 1997. Ils seront rejoints cet été par les amateurs de football. Vallée donc l'Hexagone chargé d'une délicate mission : créer les conditions d'une fête réussie à la fois pour les adeptes du ballon rond et les touristes moins concernés par le sport. Pour relever le défi, la France a décidé de mettre l'accent sur la qualité de l'accueil. Un enjeu et des enjeux légitimes des visiteurs : sécurité, confort, services, etc. Dans le cadre de la campagne « Bonjour 98 », massivement engagée en signant un contrat d'accueil qui rendra la France encore plus conviviale. Une campagne « prix justes » est également mise en place et un panneau « Bonjour, je m'occupe pour

l'accueil » permettra aux touristes d'identifier les hôtels, restaurants et autres commerces participant à l'opération.

n'est pas l'objectif premier de nombreux touristes, connaître les résultats des derniers matches ou regarder son équipe favorite à la télévision peut être agréable. Des points d'information seront installés dans les lieux d'accueil (hôtels, restaurants, cafés...). Les chaînes étrangères seront signalées par un autocollant spécifique.

Enfin, les villes qui ne participent pas directement à la compétition pourront diffuser, sur grand écran, les matches choisis. La dernière grande manifestation d'été en France date de 1989 : c'était le Bicentenaire de la Révolution. Cette année-là, 50 millions de touristes étrangers ont visité la France. Deux ans plus tard, ils étaient 60 millions, séduits par l'image positive donnée par cette grande fête. En 1998, les acteurs du tourisme ne veulent pas rater le rendez-vous international du Mondial et attendent les mêmes retombées bénéfiques qu'il y a presque dix ans.

Stéphanie Rouget

C'est la vie

L'agenda français d'Amman

Cinéma

Cycle consacré à la réalisatrice Agnès Varda. Venue de l'univers de la photographie, Agnès Varda a réalisé en 1954 un film d'auteur qui fera d'elle un des précurseurs de la Nouvelle Vague. Fine analyste des utopies des années 70, elle a pratiqué des contes alternant le court et le long métrage, du cinéma à la télévision, de la photo à l'image animée, de la fiction au documentaire. *Claire de 5 à 7*, film en noir et blanc de 1962 avec C. Marchand et A. Bourgeois, sous-titré en arabe. C'est une jeune chanteuse, apprend qu'elle est atteinte d'un cancer. Errant dans les rues, elle rencontre un jeune soldat qui part pour la guerre en Algérie. Lundi 15 juin au Centre culturel français à 18h30 et 20h30. Renseignements au CCF au 4636-445 ou 4637009.

Exposition

En 1998, l'artiste algérien Rachid Koraichi travaille sur des jarres d'argile avec des potiers tunisiens. Un jour, au cours de leur cuisson, de violents orages éclatent, détruisent les fours et leur contenu. Deux ans plus tard, le peintre a repris ce projet en France avec l'aide notamment des potiers d'Anduze et de Saint-Quentin la Poterie. C'est une partie de cette production (7 vases d'Anduze, 14 jarres de Saint-Quentin, ainsi que 7 vases de soie) qui est présentée au Centre culturel français et à Darat al Founn jusqu'au 2 juillet.

Sécurité

Une collaboration entre Etat et CFO

Toutes les forces sont mobilisées au-dedans et au-dehors des stades pour que la fête soit belle. Les bonnes volontés sont aussi de la partie.

L'accueil, la convivialité avant la sécurité, est une ambition partagée par les dix villes organisatrices qui ont, parallèlement à l'événement sportif, établi des programmes d'animation et de fête accessibles à tous. Bien entendu, la sécurité des millions de visiteurs figure au premier rang des priorités.

La répartition des compé-

tences a été définie treize mois avant l'ouverture de l'épreuve, dans une « convention de sécurité » signée le 21 mai 1997 entre le Ministère de l'Intérieur et le Comité français d'organisation (CFO). Leurs efforts communs donneront lieu à deux périmètres de sécurité. Le premier, dit périmètre CFO, comprend le stade et ses abords, le deuxième, plus large, dit périmètre de sécurité de

l'Etat, matérialise la zone à l'intérieur de laquelle l'Etat mettra en place un dispositif de service d'ordre renforcé. Cent millions de francs ont ainsi été débloqués pour assurer la sécurité des personnes et des biens, gérer le flux des spectateurs et mettre sur pied une assistance médicale. Chaque jour de la compétition, 5.000 CRS (membres des Compagnies républicaines de sécurité) et gen-

darmes mobiles viendront s'ajouter aux services locaux de police, de gendarmerie et de services de secours. Quant à l'assistance médicale, elle est assurée par plus de 110 médecins et infirmiers et près de 900 secouristes.

Accueillir 2,5 millions de spectateurs en un

mois représente un engagement de tous les instants. Dans chaque stade, places assises individuelles et numérotées, systèmes de vidéosurveillance sophistiqués et aménagements des infrastructures permettront de garantir aux spectateurs les conditions indispensables à leur confort et à leur sécurité. Le dispositif humain, largement inspiré d'un modèle qui a montré son efficacité lors de l'Euro 96, est organisé autour des « stadiers », créés pour la première fois sur un événement d'une telle ampleur. Leur

mission sera d'accueillir, de contrôler, de placer et de renseigner les spectateurs mais aussi de veiller à leur sécurité aux abords immédiats et à l'intérieur du stade, avec en moyenne un stadiers pour cent spectateurs (soit 800 pour le seul Stade de France) pour chaque match. Il s'agit pour un tiers d'un personnel professionnel de la sécurité et pour deux tiers de volontaires. Rigoureusement sélectionnés et testés, tous les stadiers ont bénéficié d'un programme intensif de formation, créé par le CFO avec le concours de l'Etat.

Menaces terroristes sur l'Hexagone

Parmi les menaces potentielles, la piste islamiste semble la plus sérieuse. Les arrestations de suspects qui seraient liés à ces réseaux se poursuivent après la mise hors d'état de nuire, début mars, d'une équipe liée au GIA. Les enquêteurs ont découvert alors une collection d'articles sur la Coupe du monde.

En Allemagne, en Italie et en Angleterre, tout comme en France, des islamistes continuent de s'activer pour leur cause. Les plus acharnés d'entre eux ont suivi un entraînement au Pakistan. Les services spécialisés de tous ces pays, qui entretiennent des relations étroites, ont cette mouvance à l'œil et lui portent régulièrement des coups. Pour

autant, si la menace islamiste, à l'occasion du Mondial, semble la plus dangereuse, les spécialistes ne négligent pas pour autant les autres. Les trois attentats commis il y a peu de temps au Pays basque français par l'organisation et la reprise des opérations du FLNC (Front libérateur national corsais) ont permis de constater que la menace de la « bombe à Marseille contre le Conseil régional », confirme la persistance d'un activisme hexagonal.

Toutefois ces organisations n'ont pas commis d'attentats meurtriers. Tel n'est pas le cas de l'ETA, dont la dangerosité croissante prendra des proportions particulières. Joyeux de matches auxquels assisteront les plus hautes autorités espagnoles.

Marketing

Une vitrine pour sa technologie

La France sous les projecteurs des médias pour le meilleur et pour le pire.

Pour son TGV ou ses grèves des pilotes d'Air France.

Les journalistes, dans l'usage quotidien, envoient télécopiers, courriers électroniques, images par l'intermédiaire de France Telecom, de quoi se faire une idée des compétences de la téléphonie française. Les supporters, les délégations et les médias utiliseront souvent dans leurs déplacements les services de la Société nationale des chemins de fer (SNCF) qui, grâce à la desserte par TGV des dix villes organisatrices, assurera une part importante des déplacements. La SNCF s'est engagée à assurer dans les meilleures conditions le transport des 2,5 millions de supporters. Les trains de grandes lignes notamment, fonctionne-

ront la nuit afin de permettre le cas échéant un retour dans la ville de résidence. Les déplacements des équipes, quant à elles, seront assurés par des vols intérieurs de la compagnie Air France, à condition de ne pas être perturbés par les mouvements de grève en cours.

Echelle humaine

Les millions de téléspectateurs n'auront pas une vision de toutes ces infrastructures. Pour eux, les réalisations les plus visibles, auxquelles seront consacrées de longues heures de retransmission, seront les dix stades où se déroulent les rencontres. Neuf d'entre eux exis-

taient déjà : ils ont subi des travaux de réaménagement d'ampleur et de coût variables. Tous ont gardé une capacité à la mesure de la ville qui les héberge. Un peu étroit pour l'événement, ils ne deviendront pas des espaces surdimensionnés après la Coupe du Monde. Un seul stade a été construit pour l'occasion, le plus grand : celui qui accueillera le plus de matches : le Stade de France de Saint-Denis (voir page 10).

La Coupe du monde, un défi marketing pour les entreprises, les régions et les services. Par rapport à la compétition proprement dite, la France a un avantage certain : elle est seule dans la vitrine.



Le TGV, un atout rapide pour les grandes distances.

Haute couture

parfums, gastronomie... image classique et étendue de la France. Aéronautique, construction automobile, recherche médicale, parapharmacie etc... sont d'autres points forts renommés à l'étranger. Mais au-delà de ces clichés et images

d'Épinal, les 12.000 journalistes présents pour la Coupe du Monde, les milliers de supporters attendus et les millions de spectateurs vont pouvoir découvrir d'autres aspects de la France et de sa technologie. Par l'intermédiaire de partenariats mis en place par France 98, il sera présenté d'autres réalisations du savoir-faire français.

Football en Jordanie

Championnat : attention les secousses

Ici, on joue aussi au foot. Pendant le Mondial, le championnat de l'élite, comme d'habitude dominé par Wehdat et Faisali, se poursuit. Interrompu pendant plus de deux semaines en mai, le jeu a finalement repris ses droits, sans éteindre les rivalités.

Éliminés sans gloire des premiers tours des éliminatoires de la Coupe du monde en 1997, les Jordaniens n'ont plus que la tête et leur championnat pour se consoler. Et encore. Ce dernier avait bien mal commencé. Après quelques journées de compétition seulement, la plupart des clubs de l'élite avaient en effet décidé de le boycotter. Faut-il en faire la corrélation avec la Fédération jordanienne : l'argent des matches.

La saison 97 du championnat de l'élite (l'équivalent de la première division en France) avait rapporté 173.000 JD à la Fédération, chargée ensuite de redistribuer la somme aux dix clubs de l'élite. Cette répartition est, d'un commun accord, inégale : le club palestinien de Wehdat devait ainsi toucher 31.000 JD, Faisali, son ennemi juré, 16.000 JD et les huit autres clubs, seulement 12.000 JD. Une situation qui paraît bien injuste. Mais il faut bien dire que chaque fois que les Verts de Wehdat entrent dans le stade de la Cité des Sports, plus de 20.000 fans passionnés font sonner les trompes-chaïnes. En revanche, une rencontre Abil-Ramtha, n'attire pas les foules : les tribunes sont largement clairsemées. Bref au nom de la popularité, les clubs avaient accepté une distribution inéquitable des recettes des matches, tout en ruinant leur amertume dans les vestiaires.

Mais les données du problème se sont modifiées cette année puisque la Fédération de football a passé un contrat avec une société d'investissement pour s'occuper de la promotion des matches de l'élite et de la vente des billets.



Wehdat est l'équipe qui arrive en tête des ventes de billets, avec plus de 20.000 supporters à chacun de ses matches.

Montant de l'opération : 300.000 JD, soit presque deux fois plus que les saisons précédentes. Un gâteau alléchant dans un pays où le professionnalisme est embryonnaire et

2600 licenciés

La Jordanie compte 300 clubs et environ 2600 licenciés de la Fédération de football.

Diverses compétitions se déroulent tout au long de la saison. Les plus importantes sont le Championnat de l'élite (10 clubs) et le Championnat de l'élite B (10 clubs). Les clubs de l'élite ont droit à une prime de 10.000 JD à la fin de la saison.

La Coupe de la Fédération est disputée par les clubs de l'élite et de l'élite B. Elle est disputée en mai et juin.

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Les Jordaniens derrière leur écran

En attendant la «nuit des garçons»

Midi, jeudi 28 mai. Mon téléphone vient d'être installé, comme sans arrêt. Je décroche. C'est mon rédacteur en chef au bout du fil : «Tu peux nous faire une rubrique sur la Coupe du monde ?», me propose-t-il après les formules de politesse habituelles. Je réfléchis. J'hésite : «Mais moi, j'y connais rien au foot», avant de demander plus de précisions sur le papier à écrire. Comprenez mon inquiétude, il m'explique avec son enthousiasme éternel qu'il ne veut rien de technique mais plutôt un petit sondage pour savoir où les Jordaniens vont regarder les matches du Mondial.

Voici donc le résultat de ma modeste enquête :

Les mâles de Jordanie, au moins pour le foot, sont des acharnés. C'est sans surprise qu'on les trouve beaucoup plus passionnés de ballon rond que les femmes. Emboussés, Khaled Berghouti, 38 ans, pilote à la Royal Jordanian, confie son impatience à sa femme avant le coup d'envoi de la compétition. Dans le secteur de la publicité, c'est le même engouement. Bien avant le premier match, Adel Othman a passé des invitations pour regarder la Coupe chez lui. Et puis pour la première fois, les Jordaniens ont suivi une grève française de bout en bout. Les pilotes d'Air France observent plusieurs jours d'arrêt de travail, et c'est toute la Jordanie en émoi, qui s'inquiète de l'avenir de la Coupe du monde.

Les matches de football seront un événement social et familial dans une Jordanie un peu monotone. De quoi casser leur routine quotidienne. Beaucoup vont ainsi se réunir à la maison ou dans des lieux publics pour suivre le Mondial. Roufan Nahhas, 30 ans, directeur des Amis de l'Archéologie, explique qu'il regarde tous les matches chez ses copains : «On appelle cela la nuit des garçons», et c'est réservé uniquement aux garçons. Côté femme, Dua'a Odeh, 23 ans, spécialiste des relations publiques, profite de l'occasion pour voir ses amis et entre nous, le foot ne l'intéresse pas trop : «On va chez une copine et en fin de compte, on parle plus qu'on ne regarde les matches». Il y a les originaux... Khalil Hamed, 24 ans, employé dans une entreprise de pub, pense

regarder la Coupe à la télé, dans le supermarché de son copain... et les classiques : Roula Kakhish et Azam Misk préfèrent le confort de leur salon pour apprécier le foot en famille.

Pendant la gym quotidienne

Plusieurs commerces espèrent croquer un bout du gâteau «Mondial», alors que le pays souffre d'une crise économique sérieuse. De nombreux restaurants et de cafés ont installé de grands écrans, avec sono adéquate, pour inviter les gens à venir regarder le grand événement et surtout... consommer. Thabet Shahdeh, 28 ans, programmeur informatique, a déjà retenu sa place au Champions, le seul bar sportif de la capitale, avec ambiance chaude assurée. Hassan Al-Abbadi, 42 ans, directeur général de Yellow Pages, préfère l'atmosphère feutrée de l'hôtel Sheperd où se sent dans le bain en visionnant les matches pendant ses exercices quotidiens. à son club de gym. Quant à Hussein Safadi, 29 ans, il a fait installer le satellite dans la compagnie dont il est propriétaire pour être sûr de ne rien louper.

Les Jordaniens vont pouvoir aussi exprimer leur amertume et leur frustration politique à l'égard d'un processus de paix sans résultats. A défaut d'encourager leur sélection nationale, ils soutiendront les pays dont les gouvernements se montrent favorables au royaume hachémite et au Moyen-Orient en général. A coup sûr, l'Iran aura de nombreux supporters ici quand son équipe rencontrera les États-Unis le 21 juin.

Enfin, la fièvre du football est également à la hausse dans les pays voisins. En Palestine, les étudiants du Jawhri ont officiellement demandé à l'Autorité palestinienne de reporter leurs examens à la fin de la Coupe du monde afin de goûter le Mondial, sans stresser.

Samia Abu Sharar

Retrouvez la rubrique de Samia Abu Sharar, chaque semaine dans Le Jourdain, pendant toute la durée du Mondial.

Souvenirs

Lucien, le premier goleador

Le 13 juillet 1930, un Français passe à la postérité en inscrivant le premier but du premier match du premier Mondial. Soixante-huit ans et 1584 buts plus tard, Lucien Laurent n'a rien oublié de sa reprise de volée désormais légendaire.

Ancien dirigeant du club de Besançon, Lucien Laurent aime à raconter son histoire. Son aventure du premier Mondial.

«À l'époque, j'étais au Football Club de Sochaux. Au poste d'intérieur, comme on disait alors. Ça correspond aujourd'hui à une sorte de numéro 8 ou numéro 10. C'était la fin des années 20, et nous étions tous des joueurs amateurs. Moi, par exemple, je travaillais à l'usine Peugeot. Et je travaillais vraiment, je n'étais pas payé pour m'entraîner, pour faire du sport... rappelle-t-il volontiers.

Très vite, par ses qualités naturelles et une technique brillante, Lucien Laurent s'impose au plus haut niveau français. Et lorsque le comité de sélection et la Fédération le contacte et lui propose de participer à la première Coupe du monde, le footballeur sochalien accepte. Il reconnaît qu'il ne



deux mois de vacances. Il faut donc l'intervention du président de la Fédération, Jules Rimet, pour que l'administration des douanes accorde un congé exceptionnel au gardien Alex Thépot, et pour que le quai d'Orsay permette au jeune soldat et avant de l'équipe Marcel Pinel d'être délégué en mission spéciale auprès du consul de France à Montevideo.

«Moi, j'ai tout de suite dit oui, raconte Lucien Laurent. J'avais 22 ans et demi. C'était comme un rêve». L'aventure mondiale commence le 19 juin 1930 à Villefranche-sur-Mer. L'équipe de France, c'est donc seize

jeunes, plus Jacques Caudron, l'un des trois membres du comité de sélection, plus Panozani, le soigneur, plus Georges Balvay, un arbitre. La petite troupe embarque sur un paquebot, le Conte-Verde.

Pourtant, certains joueurs devront refuser la sélection et le voyage en Amérique du Sud : pas question pour leurs employeurs de leur accorder

pas de remplaçants

Une traversée de l'Atlantique qui va durer quinze jours. «À bord, on a retrouvé deux autres sélections européennes : la Belgique et la Roumanie. Je souviens Lucien Laurent, notre terrain d'entraînement, c'était le pont du bateau. On jouait au milieu des passagers, sous le regard des belles jeunes femmes élégantes. Une salle de culture physique avait été aménagée pour nous. Chacune des trois équipes avait un espace entier à sa disposition».

Quinze jours plus tard, les joueurs débarquent à Montevideo. «On est arrivé un peu dans les nuages, évoque l'ancien joueur. On devait disputer notre premier match deux jours plus tard. On n'a pas vraiment eu le temps de récupérer, de repérer le terrain. Pour leur première rencontre, à Pocitos, le terrain du Penarol de Montevideo, en ce 13 juillet 1930, les Bleus affrontent le Mexique. Après seulement dix minutes de jeu, le gardien, Alex Thépot est blessé.

«Les remplaçants étaient interdits à l'époque. C'est Tintin Chantrel qui a gardé les filets. Il évoluait d'habitude en demi-gauche. L'empêche ! C'est la France qui inscrit le premier but de la partie. Et le premier de la Coupe du monde. Un but signé Lucien Laurent : «J'ai marqué d'une reprise de volée. Je ne me rappelle plus exactement les circonstances de ce jeu, ni d'où me venait le ballon. Je ne garde en mémoire que ce tir qui file vers le but mexicain. On a gagné 4 buts à 1. On a perdu 1-0 au tour suivant contre l'Argentine. Quel magnifique souvenir... de jeunesse !»

Serge Bressan

Ces stars du ballon qui veulent briller

Tout le monde les attend. Les supporters, les entraîneurs, les sponsors. Cette Coupe du monde peut les consacrer dans la légende du football. Voici quelques hommes en passe de devenir des dieux.

Ronaldo
l'Astre avec un grand A

Tout a été dit sur Ronaldo. Sa précocité, ses débuts, sa famille et pourtant Luis Nazario Lima, né Bento Ribeiro il y a 22 ans, est peut-être à l'aube du plus grand exploit de sa vie : remporter sa première Coupe du monde. Déjà présent dans le groupe des 22 de la sélection lors du Mondial 94, il n'avait pas disputé un match. Le titre, le quatrième acquis par le Brésil, n'avait aucune saveur particulière pour la future star. Le rendez-vous français est tout autre. Il peut lui offrir la consécration, celle qu'il recherche même s'il a remporté au niveau international une Coupe des coupes avec le FC Barcelone (1997) et une Coupe de l'UEFA avec l'Inter de Milan (1998). Pour parvenir à

ses fins, Ronaldo, le joueur le plus cher du monde, après son compatriote Denilson, aura autour de lui l'armada brésilienne vraisemblablement la plus douée et la plus complète depuis celle qui avait permis au roi Pelé au Mexique en 1970 de remporter son troisième titre de champion du monde.

Luis Nazario Lima sait, à ce titre, qu'il va être attendu, épié et parfois malmené. Depuis hier, jour du premier de son équipe contre l'Écosse, il peut méditer sur ce que disait Franz Beckenbauer, l'ex-capitaine de la RFA et actuel président du Bayern Munich : «Le propre d'un grand joueur est de confirmer dans les grandes occasions».

Zidane
le talent à l'état pur

Sous les couleurs de la Juventus de Turin, Zinedine Zidane a acquis une dimension supérieure au point de devenir un des meilleurs joueurs actuels. Dès son premier match en équipe de France, contre la République Tchèque en 1994, «Zizou» avait frappé les imaginations en inscrivant en une petite demi-heure (il était entré à la 62ème minute) les deux buts qui avaient permis aux Bleus d'arracher l'égalisation.

À bientôt 26 ans il les aura le 23 juin, la veille de France-Danemark. Zinedine Zidane, atteint sa pleine maturité. Son élégance, sa technique hors pair, son sens de la passe juste et sa vision du jeu en ont fait le régisseur incontesté du jeu de la Juve et de l'équipe de France.

À la dure école italienne, il a par ailleurs sensiblement amélioré son potentiel physique, longtemps son point faible et a beaucoup gagné en régularité. Enfin il est capable de faire basculer l'issue d'un match par la précision de ses coups de pied arrêtés, une arme qu'ils n'utilisent pas assez sous le maillot tricolore.

Il aurait déjà dû être une des grandes vedettes de l'Euro-96 en Angleterre mais un accident de la circulation lui fit abandonner la phase finale du Championnat d'Europe des Nations.

Le Mondial lui offre une magnifique occasion de prendre une éclatante revanche et d'entrer définitivement dans le gotha des meilleurs joueurs de la planète football.

Raul
le surdoué espagnol

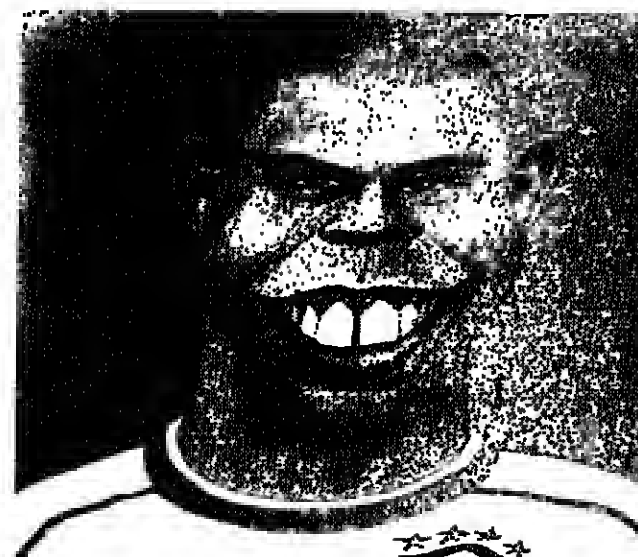
Figure emblématique du Real Madrid et de l'Espagne, «Raul» Gonzalez Blanco reste une star au firmament de sa gloire, même si sa bonne étoile s'est éclipée cet hiver quand le surdoué a connu sa première saison en enfer.

Débuts à 17 ans sous la houlette de Jorge Valdano, première sélection à 19 ans, deux titres de champions d'Espagne à moins de 21 ans : l'attaquant vicié en France avec le statut de génie précoce et quelques buts spectaculaires à son actif qui ont laissé bouche-bée l'observateur le plus blasé.

Fils d'un électricien d'une banlieue populaire, le jeune Gonzalez Blanco a commencé à se faire un prénom dans les jeunes sections de l'Atlético Madrid avec 58 buts en une saison chez les cadets. Quand l'Atlético supprimera

les équipes-jeunes, Raul s'en ira chercher fortune sous le maillot du Real voisin. L'Atlético fera tout pour récupérer l'enfant-prodige. Eu vain : le jeune homme est sous contrat avec son club jusqu'en 2002. Sa trajectoire a suivi une courbe ascendante jusqu'à l'hiver dernier. Après un début de saison normale -c'est-à-dire très bon-, la machine a été grippée, victime d'une pubalgie chronique. Pour la première fois de sa vie peut-être, Raul est resté plus de trois mois sans marquer, entre le 5 janvier et le 19 avril.

«Tout va bien, je suis toujours le même», a-t-il cessé de répéter. Avec sang-froid et maturité, le jeune homme a laissé passer l'orage tout en résumant son ambition en deux mots : «Tout gagner». Ce mot d'ordre vaut pour le Mondial pendant lequel il fêtera ses 21 ans (le 27 juin).

Batistuta
né pour marquer

Meilleur buteur de l'histoire du football argentin (42 buts en 60 sélections), Gabriel Omar Batistuta, dit Baulgo, a détrôné Diego Maradona dans le cœur des Argentins. Très habile des deux pieds, redoutable également de la tête, Batistuta a un sens aigu du but, aussi bien dans le petit périmètre qu'en partant de trente mètres. À 29 ans, il est devenu aussi le chouchou du public florentin depuis son arrivée en 1991 à la Fiorentina où il a marqué 103 buts.

Son seul handicap, très relatif, réside dans ses difficultés à se déplacer dans un espace réduit et à se débarrasser d'un marquant individuel très strict. Cependant, contrairement au traditionnel buteur irrésistiblement attiré par la surface de réparation adverse, Batistuta présente la particularité

de savoir se sacrifier au bénéfice de l'équipe, d'aller chercher ses ballons loin derrière et de défendre farouchement quand cela est nécessaire. Malgré toutes ces qualités, le capitaine de la Fiorentina qui a marqué 40% des buts du club italien au cours des sept dernières années, n'était pas assuré de disputer le Mondial il y a encore quelques semaines. C'est en effet l'opinion publique qui a dû l'imposer à son intransigent entraîneur. Batistuta est toujours resté réservé sur ses divergences avec le sélectionneur argentin. Quand il a perdu son brassard de capitaine, il a juste remarqué : «J'ai toujours accepté les remises en cause tant que cela paraît d'une bonne intention. En revanche, c'est noté sans quand les intentions ne sont pas claires».

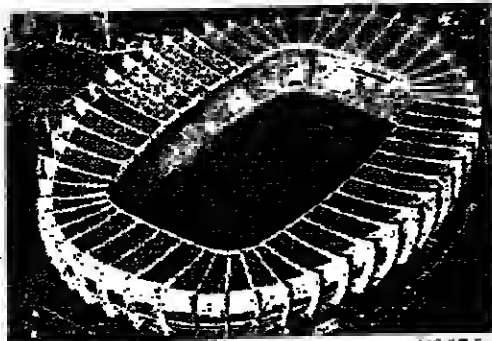


Lucien Laurent, le premier buteur du premier Mondial, en 1930.

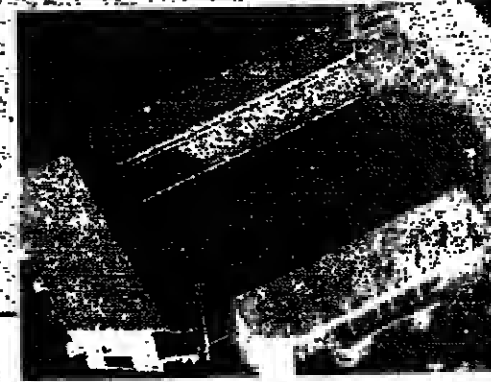
Les dix stades

Paris

Depuis son inauguration en 1972, le Parc des Princes, symbole des années « béton », accueille les matches de l'équipe locale, le Paris-Saint-Germain, et ceux des sélections nationales de rugby et de football. D'autres manifestations ont rentabilisé l'édifice : combats de boxe, concours d'équitation mais aussi messe de Jean-Paul II et concert de Michael Jackson. Il est maintenant détrôné par le Stade de France à Saint-Denis. Capacité : 49.000 places assises.



Au programme
Allemagne-États-Unis (groupe F) : 15 juin à 22h
Nigeria-Bulgarie (groupe D) : 19 juin à 18h30
Argentine-Jamaïque (groupe H) : 21 juin à 18h30
Belgique-Corée du Sud (groupe E) : 25 juin à 17h
Huitième de finale : 1A contre 2B, le 27 juin à 22h
Match de classement pour la troisième place, le 11 juillet à 22h



Lens

Au programme
Arabie Saoudite-Danemark (groupe C) : 12 juin à 18h30
Jamaïque-Croatie (groupe H) : 14 juin à 22h
Allemagne-Yugoslavie (groupe F) : 21 juin à 18h30
Espagne-Bulgarie (groupe D) : 25 juin à 22h
Colombie-Angleterre (groupe G) : 26 juin à 22h
Huitième de finale : 1C contre 2D, le 28 juin à 17h30

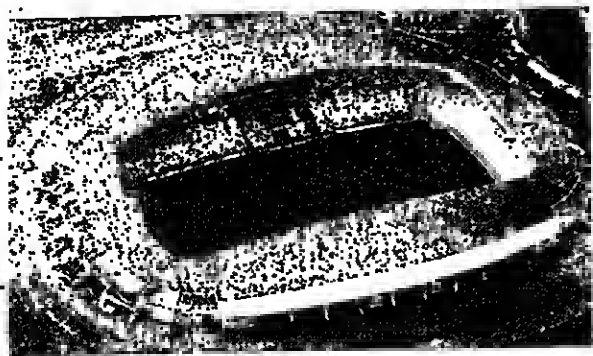
Saint-Denis

Le Stade de France a été spécialement construit pour la Coupe du monde 1998. La capacité pour les matches de football est de 49.000 places, mais elle peut atteindre 100.000 places pour les concerts et autres manifestations. La structure autorisée des tribunes permet d'accueillir des tribunes sur la pelouse. La toiture du stade est constituée de son système de ventilation. Huitième de finale : 1C contre 2D, le 28 juin à 17h30.



Nantes

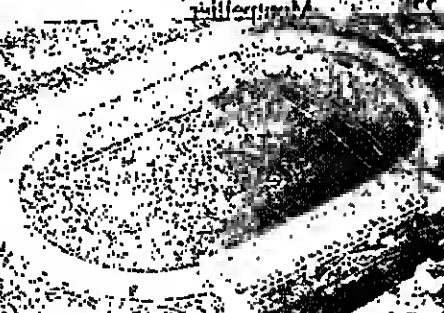
Le stade de la Beaujoire a été édifié spécialement pour le Championnat d'Europe des Nations en 1984. Tout le monde s'accorde à saluer son esthétique mais beaucoup, surtout parmi les supporters nantais, le décrivent comme un « temple des yuppies d'airs ». Après 14 années d'existence, la Beaujoire cherche encore sa convivialité. Capacité : 39.500 places assises.



Au programme
Espagne-Nigeria (groupe D) : 13 juin à 18h30
Brésil-Maroc (groupe A) : 16 juin à 22h
Japon-Croatie (groupe H) : 20 juin à 18h30
Chili-Cameroun (groupe B) : 23 juin à 17h
États-Unis-Yugoslavie (groupe F) : 25 juin à 22h
Quart de finale, le 3 juillet à 22h

Bordeaux

Le Parc Lescure a été construit en vue de la Coupe du monde 1938. Il est présenté à l'époque comme une reproduction quasi exacte d'un stade de Milan et à peine achevé, est déjà déclaré monument historique. Caractéristique : ses 15.000 places couvertes. Originalité : son éclairage d'accès au terrain qui se parcourt en 1 minute 50 secondes, chrono en main.



Au programme
Italie-Chili (groupe B) : 11 juin à 18h30
Écosse-Norvège (groupe A) : 16 juin à 18h30
Belgique-Mexique (groupe E) : 20 juin à 18h30
Afrique du Sud-Arabie Saoudite (groupe C) : 24 juin à 17h
Argentine-Croatie (groupe H) : 26 juin à 17h
Huitième de finale : 1G contre 2H, le 30 juin à 17h30

Saint-Étienne



Au programme
Iran-Australie (groupe B) : 12 juin à 18h30
France-Pays-Bas (groupe A) : 16 juin à 22h
Écosse-Maroc (groupe A) : 20 juin à 17h
Huitième de finale : 1G contre 2H, le 30 juin à 17h30

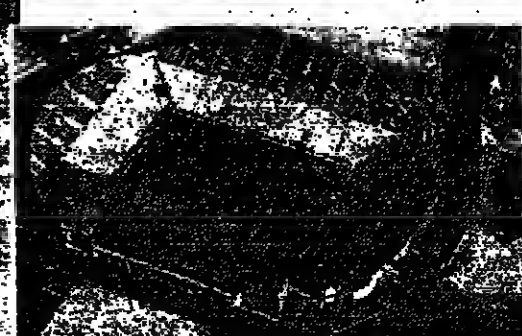
Toulouse

Au programme
Cameroun-Autriche (groupe B) : 11 juin à 22h
Argentine-Japon (groupe H) : 14 juin à 18h30
Afrique du Sud-Danemark (groupe C) : 19 juin à 17h30
Royaume-Uni-Angleterre (groupe G) : 22 juin à 22h
Nigeria-Pays-Bas (groupe D) : 24 juin à 22h
Huitième de finale : 1B contre 2F, le 29 juin à 22h



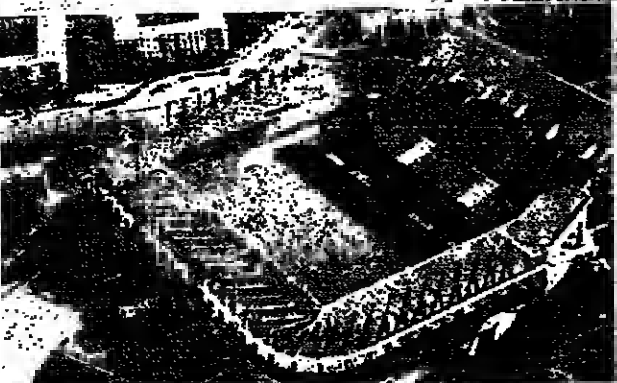
Construit dans les années 30 en vue de la Coupe du monde 1938, le Stadium Municipal de Toulouse est un lieu du rugby français. Il est situé sur une étroite bande de terre qui se laisse hercer entre les bords de la Garonne. Capacité : 37.000 places.

Marseille



Au programme
Iran-Australie (groupe B) : 12 juin à 18h30
France-Pays-Bas (groupe A) : 16 juin à 22h
Écosse-Maroc (groupe A) : 20 juin à 17h
Huitième de finale : 1G contre 2H, le 30 juin à 17h30

Montpellier



Au programme
Allemagne-Iran (groupe F) : 22 juin à 17h30
Huitième de finale : 1F contre 2E, le 29 juin à 22h

Votre calendrier de la Coupe du Monde

GROUPE A

(1) L'heure indiquée est toujours celle de Jordanie

Mercredi 10 juin 18h30(1) Brésil-Ecosse	Mercredi 10 juin 22h Maroc-Norvège	Mardi 16 juin 18h30 Bordeaux Ecosse-Norvège	Mardi 16 juin 22h Nantes Brésil-Maroc	Mardi 23 juin 22h Marseille Brésil-Norvège	Mardi 23 juin 22h St-Etienne Ecosse-Maroc
Score : 2-1	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____

(A)	Points	Gagné	Nul	Perdu	Buts +	Buts -
Brésil	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ecosse	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Maroc	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Norvège	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

GROUPE B

Jeu 11 juin 18h30 Bordeaux Italie-Chili	Jeu 11 juin 22h Toulouse Cameroun-Autriche	Mercredi 17 juin 18h30 St-Etienne Chili-Autriche	Mercredi 17 juin 22h Montpellier Italie-Cameroun	Mardi 23 juin 17h St-Denis Italie-Autriche	Mardi 23 juin 17h Nantes Chili-Cameroun
Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____

GROUPE C

Vendredi 12 juin 18h30 Lyon Arabie Saoudite-Danemark	Vendredi 12 juin 22h Marseille France-Afrique du Sud	Jeu 18 juin 18h30 Toulouse Afrique du Sud-Danemark	Jeu 18 juin 22h St-Denis France-Arabie Saoudite	Mercredi 24 juin 17h Lyon France-Danemark	Mercredi 24 juin 17h Bordeaux Afrique du Sud-Arabie Saoudite
Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____

(C)	Points	Gagné	Nul	Perdu	Buts +	Buts -
France	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
A. du Sud	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
A. Saoudite	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Danemark	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

GROUPE D

Vendredi 12 juin 15h30 Montpellier Paraguay-Bulgarie	Samedi 13 juin 15h30 Nantes Espagne-Nigeria	Vendredi 19 juin 18h30 Paris Nigeria-Bulgarie	Vendredi 19 juin 22h St-Etienne Espagne-Paraguay	Mercredi 24 juin 22h Lyon Espagne-Bulgarie	Mercredi 24 juin 22h Toulouse Nigeria-Paraguay
Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____

GROUPE E

Samedi 13 juin 18h30 Lyon Corée du Sud-Mexique	Samedi 13 juin 22h St-Denis Pays-Bas-Belgique	Samedi 20 juin 18h30 Bordeaux Belgique-Mexique	Samedi 20 juin 22h Marseille Pays-Bas-Corée du Sud	Jeu 25 juin 17h St-Etienne Pays-Bas-Mexique	Jeu 25 juin 17h Paris Belgique-Corée du Sud
Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____

(E)	Points	Gagné	Nul	Perdu	Buts +	Buts -
Pays-Bas	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Belgique	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mexique	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Corée du S.	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

GROUPE F

Dimanche 14 juin 18h30 St-Etienne Yougoslavie-Iran	Lundi 15 juin 22h Paris Allemagne-Etats-Unis	Dimanche 21 juin 18h30 Lyon Allemagne-Yougoslavie	Dimanche 21 juin 22h St-Etienne Etats-Unis-Iran	Jeu 25 juin 22h Montpellier Allemagne-Iran	Jeu 25 juin 22h Nantes Etats-Unis-Yougoslavie
Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____

GROUPE G

Lundi 15 juin 15h30 Marseille Angleterre-Tunisie	Lundi 15 juin 18h30 Lyon Roumanie-Colombie	Lundi 22 juin 18h30 Montpellier Colombie-Tunisie	Lundi 22 juin 22h Toulouse Roumanie-Angleterre	Vendredi 26 juin 22h Lyon Colombie-Angleterre	Vendredi 26 juin 22h St-Denis Roumanie-Tunisie
Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____

(G)	Points	Gagné	Nul	Perdu	Buts +	Buts -
Roumanie	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Tunisie	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Angleterre	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Colombie	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

GROUPE H

Dimanche 14 juin 15h30 Toulouse Argentine-Japon	Dimanche 14 juin 22h Lyon Jamaïque-Croatie	Samedi 20 juin 15h30 Nantes Japon-Croatie	Dimanche 21 juin 18h30 Paris Argentine-Jamaïque	Vendredi 26 juin 17h Bordeaux Argentine-Croatie	Vendredi 26 juin 17h Lyon Japon-Jamaïque
Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____	Score : _____

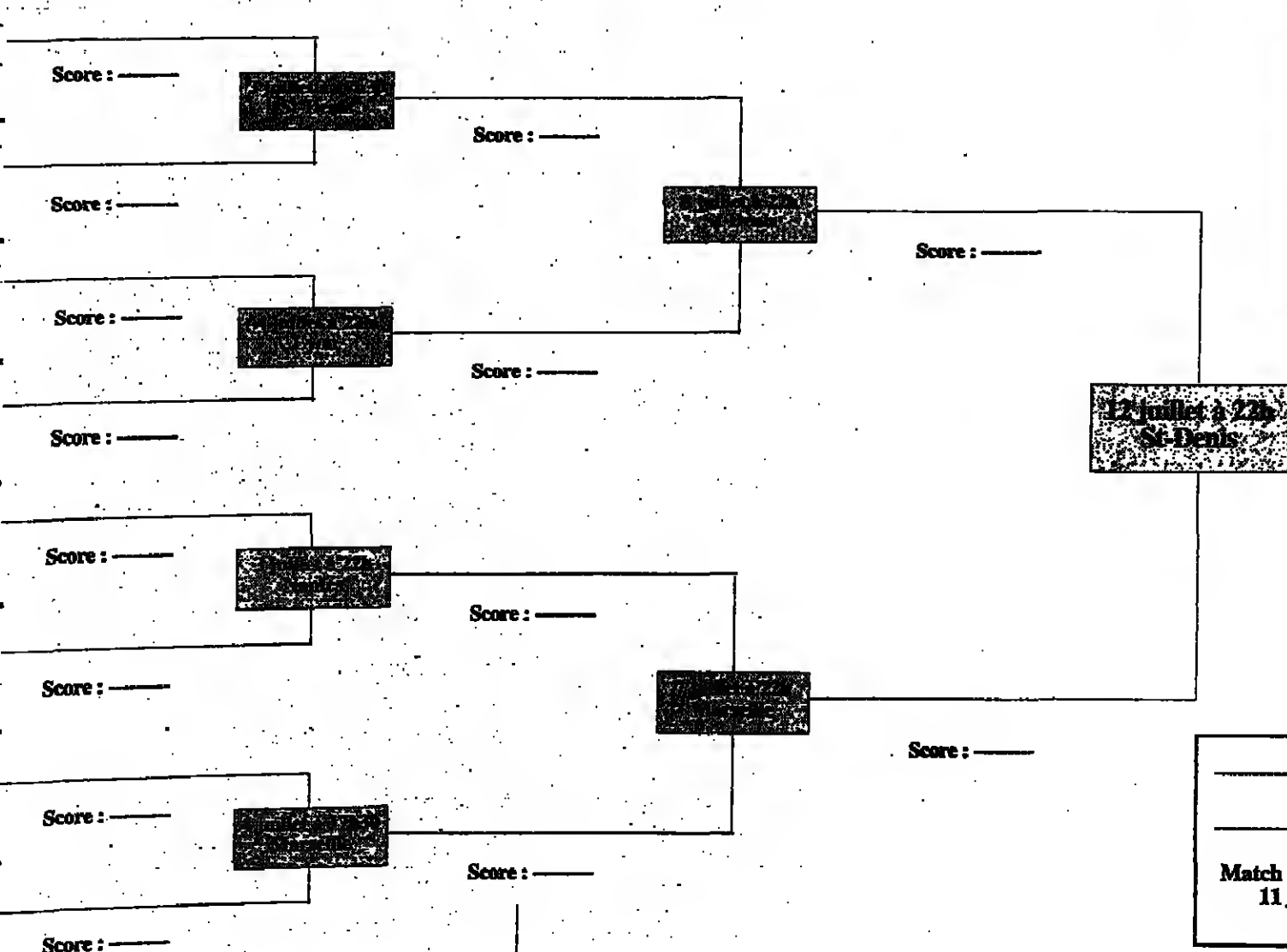
Huitièmes de finale

Quarts de finale

Demi-finales

Finale

1er groupe B : contre 2e groupe A : 27 juin à 17h30 Marseille	Score : _____
1er groupe C : contre 2e groupe D : 28 juin à 17h30 Lyon	Score : _____
1er groupe F : contre 2e groupe E : 29 juin à 17h30 Montpellier	Score : _____
1er groupe G : contre 2e groupe H : 30 juin à 17h30 Bordeaux	Score : _____
1er groupe A : contre 2e groupe B : 27 juin à 22h Paris	Score : _____
1er groupe D : contre 2e groupe C : 28 juin à 22h Saint-Denis	Score : _____
1er groupe E : contre 2e groupe F : 29 juin à 22h Toulouse	Score : _____
1er groupe H : contre 2e groupe G : 30 juin à 22h Saint-Etienne	Score : _____



Champion du Monde 1998

Règlement

La phase finale du Mondial comprend deux parties distinctes, le premier et le second tour.

Premier tour : les 32 qualifiés sont répartis en huit groupes de quatre équipes selon le système 'Championnat' (trois matches pour chaque équipe). Trois points sont accordés pour une victoire, un point pour un match nul et zéro pour une défaite. En cas d'égalité de points, les critères utilisés pour départager les concurrents sont dans l'ordre : la différence de buts, la meilleure attaque, le résultat de la rencontre directe, enfin le tirage au sort. Les deux premiers de chaque groupe sont qualifiés pour le second tour.

Second tour : les huitièmes de finale, quarts de finale, demi-finales, match pour la troisième place et finale seront disputés selon le principe de l'élimination directe. Si le résultat du match est nul après le temps réglementaire de 90 minutes, une prolongation de trente minutes sera disputée en appliquant la règle du but décisif ou « but en or ». Si nécessaire, il sera procédé ensuite à la séance de tirs au but.

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Toutes les équipes... Toutes les équipes... Toutes les équipes...

Groupe A

BRESIL

Tenant du titre, la sélection brésilienne est la favorite de la compétition. Seul danger pour les Brésiliens entrainés par Mario Zagallo, un certain excès de confiance.



ÉCOSSE

Craig Brown espère mener son équipe au-delà du premier tour, ce qui n'est jamais arrivé en sept participations aux phases finales. Trois fois, le Brésil a été la cause de ces échecs répétés. Les Écossais ne possèdent pas de grandes individualités mais forment un groupe solide autour d'une défense hermétique, difficile à battre.

MAROC

C'est la quatrième phase finale du Maroc, qui a atteint les huitièmes de finale en 1986. Mais que penser de cette équipe à la fois séduisante et décevante lors de la dernière Coupe d'Afrique des Nations ? Cependant face à une Écosse et une Norvège qui n'ont guère brillé durant les éliminatoires, les hommes du Français Henri Michel, dont l'acrobate Noureddine Taybet (notre photo), ont toutes les chances de passer ce premier tour.

NORVÈGE

Les Norvégiens espèrent faire mieux que lors des deux précédentes phases finales où ils furent éliminés au premier tour. La Norvège est une valeur montante du football européen, sous la houlette de son entraîneur Egil Olsen, adepte d'un jeu direct, à partir d'une organisation sans faille. Le niveau norvégien a beaucoup progressé depuis dix ans et de nombreux joueurs occupent maintenant dans de grands clubs européens.

Groupe E

PAYS-BAS

Quart-finalistes aux États-Unis et lors de l'Euro 1996, les Néerlandais se sont qualifiés assez facilement pour la phase finale, ne concédant qu'une seule défaite. Avec Bergkamp (notre photo), Seedorf, Kluijvert, Overmars, l'équipe entraînée par Guus Hiddink a de quoi voyager loin, même si souvent la sélection orange ne donne pas sa pleine mesure dans les compétitions majeures.

BELGIQUE

Qualifiée lors de barrages contre l'Autriche, la Belgique, emmenée par Georges Leekens, arrive avec de hautes ambitions. Mais la première phase finale lui aura été barrée par ses anciens ennemis et voisins, les Pays-Bas. Si les Belges se qualifient en terminant premiers, ce qui est à leur portée, les Brabants n'auront qu'à se féliciter avec Luc Nilis et à se concentrer sur la tâche de battre les Pays-Bas, demi-finalistes du mondial mexicain.

CORÉE DU SUD

La Corée du Sud est la meilleure équipe asiatique de ces dernières années mais elle n'a jamais réussi à passer le premier tour en quatre phases finales de Coupe du monde. Ni à gagner un match. Entraînés par l'ancien joueur Cha Bum-kun, qui a joué au Bayern Leverkusen et à l'Eintracht Frankfurt, les Coréens ont pour ambition d'atteindre le deuxième tour pour la première fois de leur histoire. You Sang-Chul (notre photo) et ses coéquipiers ont aussi l'intention de bien faire afin de justifier la décision de la FIFA qui leur a attribué l'organisation de la Coupe du monde 2002, conjointement avec le Japon.

MEXIQUE

Le Mexique fait partie des équipes le plus souvent présentes en phase finale de la Coupe du monde avec 10 participations. Les Mexicains espèrent faire mieux qu'en 1994, où ils furent éliminés aux tirs au but par la Bulgarie en huitièmes de finale. On attend de Manuel Lapuente, qui a pris la succession de l'expérimenté Bora Milutinovic, un aussi bon parcours qu'en 1986, quand l'entraîneur serbe avait mené la sélection mexicaine en quart de finale.

Groupe B

ITALIE

L'Italie remporta les barrages contre la Russie après avoir terminé deuxième de son groupe derrière l'Angleterre et avoir connu de grosses carences offensives. Mais la squadra azzurra fait partie des favoris du Mondial 98 en raison de son palmarès : trois titres et deux finales dont la dernière aux États-Unis il y a quatre ans. Césaré Maldini dispose d'une équipe de talent qui devrait aller loin dans la compétition.



CHILI

Qu'elle a été difficile la qualification des Chiliens. Elle ne s'est décidée qu'à la faveur d'une meilleure différence de buts sur les Péruviens. Les joueurs de Nelson Acosta ne figurent donc pas parmi les équipes majeures de la compétition. Ils possèdent néanmoins deux grands buteurs aux Zamorano et Salas.

CAMEROUN

Ce n'est qu'au début du mois d'avril que Claude Le Roy a pris en main la sélection des « Lions indomptables ». Il a intégré dans son groupe beaucoup de jeunes joueurs qu'il a savamment entourés de glorieux anciens tels Songo'o ou Omani-Biyik. En 1982, le Cameroun avait tenu en échec l'Italie. La récurrence est-elle possible ? En tout cas, ils n'auront pas de mal à faire mieux qu'en 1994 aux États-Unis où ils avaient sombré sans gagner un seul match.

AUTRICHE

Fidèle à son habitude, l'Autriche a gagné son billet pour la phase finale sans faire de bruit. Elle a pourtant réussi à écartier la Suède, quatrième en 1994. L'équipe de Herbert Probst se dit ambitieuse et entrevoit une qualification pour les huitièmes de finale.



Groupe F

ALLEMAGNE

Championne d'Europe en titre, la formation allemande a terminé invaincue de la phase éliminatoire. D'excellentes références pour faire d'elle l'un des principaux favoris. D'autant que les hommes de Hans-Hubert Vogts ont une revanche à prendre après leur élimination précoce en quarts, il y a quatre ans.

YOUgoslavIE

Qualifiée en écrasant la Hongrie lors des barrages (12-1 sur l'ensemble des deux matches !), la Yougoslavie est un outsider de choix. Ceux que l'on surnomme les « Brésiliens d'Europe », dirigés par l'ancien international Slobodan Santrac, devraient passer sans encombre le premier tour. Ensuite, ses individualités (Mijatovic, Jugovic, Savicevic...) peuvent mener très loin leur sélection.

IRAN

Les Iraniens font leur grand retour sur la scène internationale. Très décevants lors des matches de préparation (le sélectionneur Tomislav Ivic a été remplacé en mai dernier par Jalal Talebi), ils sont en outre tombés dans le groupe de l'Allemagne et de la Yougoslavie sans réel espoir de qualification. Une seule rencontre compte véritablement : celle contre les États-Unis à Lyon le 21 juin. En cas de victoire contre leur ennemi politique, les Iraniens rentreront en héros à Téhéran.



Groupe C

FRANCE

La France fait partie des favoris de la compétition en tant que pays organisateur, mais ses matches de préparation, sous la férule d'Alain Jaque, n'ont guère été encourageants. En dépit de ses étiquettes de membre fondateur de la FIFA et d'inventeur de la Coupe du monde, la France n'a été une puissance du football que dans les années 80, période où elle disputa deux demi-finales mondiales. C'était le temps des Platini, Giresse et autre Tigana.



AFRIQUE DU SUD

Philippe Troussier a pris les commandes de la sélection sud-africaine depuis mars seulement. Les bonnes performances obtenues sur son continent (victoire de la Coupe d'Afrique des Nations en 96, finaliste en 98) demandent confirmation sur le plan mondial.

Dans l'entourage proche de la sélection sud-africaine, on évoque la possible qualification pour les quarts de finale. Démersé ? On se souvient tout de même qu'en 1994, l'Arabie Saoudite, aujourd'hui entraînée par le Brésilien Carlos Parreira, avait atteint les huitièmes en sortant la Belgique et le Maroc et ne s'inclinant que de justesse face aux Pays-Bas.

ARABIE SAOUDITE

DANEMARK

Métamorphosé depuis la nomination de Bo Johansson au poste de sélectionneur, le Danemark compte une fois de plus sur les frères Laudrup pour passer le cap du premier tour.



Groupe G

ROUMANIE

Qualifiée sans avoir connu le moindre souci, la Roumanie s'affirme à l'instar des Pays-Bas, comme l'un des sérieux outsiders du Mondial. Les hommes d'Anghel Iordanescu tenteront de faire mieux qu'aux États-Unis, où ils avaient disparu au stade des quarts de finale. Le maître à jouer de l'équipe, Gheorghe Hagi (notre photo), est l'un des plus grands joueurs quand il est en forme. Bien qu'il se soit montré décevant à l'Euro 96, sa performance complètera pour beaucoup sur les résultats de la sélection roumaine.

COLOMBIE

Décevants aux États-Unis il y a quatre ans, les Colombiens emmenés par Hernan Jaramillo tenteront de se faire pardonner. Ils arrivent cependant dans des conditions difficiles. La plupart d'entre eux ont reçu des menaces à prendre très au sérieux après l'assassinat d'Escobar en 1994.

ANGLETERRE

Avec l'arrivée de Kevin Keegan, les Anglais sont redevenus l'une des valeurs sûres du football international. Même si la défaite contre le Chili en début d'année à Wembley a inquiété, l'équipe de Sa Majesté se présente comme l'un des favoris de l'épreuve. A condition de ne pas trop laisser de forces au premier tour dans ce groupe G, plutôt relevé.



TUNISIE

Pour sa deuxième phase finale, la Tunisie n'a pas été gâtée par le tirage au sort. De son côté, Henri Kasperczak, le sélectionneur, affirme que ses joueurs sont moins forts que la génération de 1978 qui était alors passée tout près de la qualification pour le deuxième tour. Bref, si les Africains parvenaient jusqu'en huitièmes de finale, cela serait considéré comme un réel exploit.

Groupe D

ESPAGNE

La récente victoire du Real de Madrid en Ligue des Champions n'y est certainement pas étrangère. La confiance est du côté des Espagnols. Il est vrai qu'elle a belle allure la formation mise sur pied par Javier Clemente. Il y a confirmé les anciens (Zubizarreta, Hierro...) et a donné sa place à la génération montante (Raul, Morientes...). Habités des quarts de finale mais souvent barrés à ce niveau de la compétition, les Espagnols ont sur le papier une équipe pour jouer un ton au-dessus. A suivre.

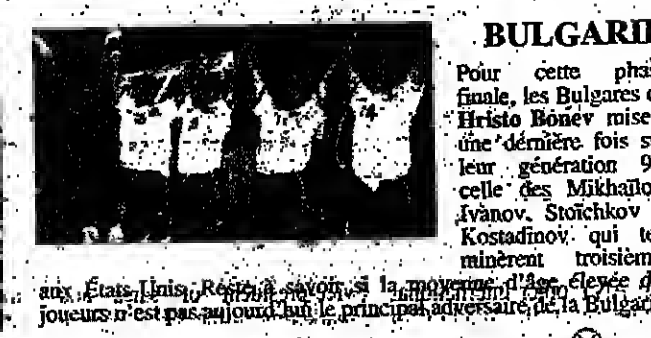


NIGÉRIA

Des cinq représentants africains, le Nigéria est sans conteste celui qui offre le plus beau profil, celui auquel on prête le plus d'espoirs. Forts de leur première expérience de 1994 (ils ne furent battus qu'après prolongation par l'Italie en huitièmes), les « Eagles » vertes s'appuient également sur leur titre de champion olympique en 96 à Atlanta après une victoire sur le Brésil et une autre sur l'Argentine. Représentants du monde entier mais surtout des clubs européens (Milan, Barcelone, Monaco...), Ikebe, Babayaro (notre photo) et les autres doivent maintenant viser sur la cohésion. Et s'en remettre à Bora Milutinovic, leur sorcier serbe.

PARAGUAY

Déjà toute heureuse d'être présente au rendez-vous après sa surprise deuxième place dans le groupe Amérique du Sud, l'équipe paraguayenne, menée par Paulo Carpegiani, aborde la compétition sans le moindre complexe. Cela peut être sa principale force face à trois adversaires à la réputation bien plus confirmée.



BULGARIE

Pour cette phase finale, les Bulgares de Hristo Bonev misent une dernière fois sur leur génération 90, celle des Mikhailov, Ivanov, Stoichkov et Kostadinov qui terminèrent troisièmes aux États-Unis. Réintégré à la moyenne d'âge élevée des joueurs, n'est pas pour autant le principal adversaire de la Bulgarie.

Groupe H

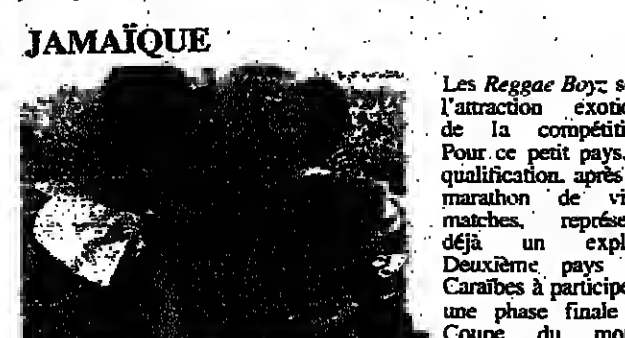
ARGENTINE

Les hommes de Daniel Passarella font partie des grands favoris de l'épreuve. La victoire contre le Brésil au Maracanã, en match de préparation, a confirmé ce statut. En outre, les Argentins voudront se faire pardonner auprès de leurs supporters, de leur élimination prématurée en huitièmes de finale en 1994.



JAPON

Seul le match contre l'autre « bête » du groupe, la Jamaïque, laisse entrevoir une chance de victoire aux Japonais dans ce groupe, où l'Argentine et la Croatie semblent nettement au-dessus du lot. Car de là à affirmer, comme existe une possibilité.



le sélectionneur, Takeshi Okada, qu'il pour que le Japon aille au deuxième tour...



Les Reggae Boyz sont l'attraction exotique de la compétition. Pour ce petit pays, la qualification, après un marathon de vingt matches, représente déjà un exploit. Deuxième pays des Caraïbes à participer à une phase finale de Coupe du monde après Haïti en 1974, l'équipe jamaïcaine, que l'entraîneur brésilien René Simoes a renforcée avec des joueurs qui évoluent dans le championnat anglais, a peu de chances de passer le premier tour. Mais elle aussi est là avant tout pour apprendre.

CROATIE



Déjà présents à l'Euro 96, les Croates sont de retour pour leur première participation en phase finale. Ils ont hérité d'un tirage plutôt favorable qui devrait leur permettre d'atteindre les huitièmes. Ensuite, au stade des matches à élimination directe, avec leurs individualités à forte expérience internationale (Prosinecki, Suker, Boban...), les hommes de Miroslav Blazevic sont capables de tout et de battre n'importe quelle équipe dans un bon jour.

The S
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The Star

Edited by Abdul Hamid Adnan

FIFA gives web fans the boot

IN 1987, when the media rights for France '98 were being negotiated, who would have thought that come the competition, a whole new medium would be around with a ravenous appetite for a piece of the action?

Nobody is the answer. Hence France '98, the biggest sporting event in history, will have thousands of Internet Web sites dedicated to it, but none will be permitted to present live action.

FIFA, soccer's international governing body, is full of praise for the Web and the ways it can enhance people's enjoyment of the tournament, but says it is too late to renegotiate the media rights and, anyway, the Internet still isn't up to the job of broadcasting. That might be true for video, but what about audio?

Real Network's RealAudio player has become the Web-casting tool of choice and has copied admirably with many big international events such as the Ryder Cup and the Rolling Stones US tour. So why no live commentary of the summer action?

Stuart Leddon, marketing director of Capital Interactive, says he would love to feature live commentary on Capital Gold's Web site, particularly since they have the king of one-liners, commentator Jonathan Pearce, lined up for each match. Although Capital will



The official web site of France 98

broadcast live on radio, the rest of the world is deprived of Pearce's inimitable style. "FIFA's decision not to extend rights to the Web is disappointing, but it's not a bind because we have thought of ways around it," says Leddon. "We'll have audio for pre and post-match interviews and for the highlights of the games, but the only site I've heard of that is going to break the embargo and challenge FIFA's ruling is in Jamaica."

Since many games are set for the afternoon, the biggest challenge facing the legions of World Cup Web sites is to get live scores on to the office desktop. Online Magic's site, sponsored by Vauxhall, is going for the office-bound audience by inventing a Java-

based tool that animates icons to coincide with the action. The site will deliver a live score on screen, and incidents like red cards and injuries will be graphically represented as they happen.

Without live commentary, most of the big sites are using interactive elements such as live chat, forums and competitions to bring in the punters. Alistair Jeffs, Online Magic's site editor, is certain this is where the Web wins, making the World Cup a more in-depth experience. "Our intention is to be a place where people go for analysis and interaction between matches," says Jeffs. "Our primary goal is not to take on TV, but to complement it."

France '98 is a sponsor's and advertiser's dream

LIKE ANY other international sporting event, the World Cup should be a sponsor's dream. The large crowds at the 64 games in France this summer, the huge television audiences worldwide and the exhaustive coverage in print and broadcast media mean corporations that have invested millions in backing the tournament are confident of getting a return for their marketing buck.

A total of 45 companies have struck deals to sponsor the World Cup, including 12 official partners, eight official suppliers, nine providers of official products and services and 16 official equipment suppliers. Between them they have paid an estimated \$456 million - \$489 million for their sponsorship rights. The bulk of the money comes from the dozen official sponsors, which are estimated to have each paid about \$34 million in rights fees.

However, for these big multinationals, such as Coca-Cola, McDonald's and Philips, this \$34 million is just the tip of the marketing iceberg. With a typical sports sponsorship, a company usually spends one pound on marketing for every pound spent on the rights fees. Yet the World Cup is not typical. As the biggest global event in the sporting calendar, companies are willing to spend heavily to leverage their initial sponsorship investment. Mava Heffler, head of marketing at MasterCard, says her organization's overall spending at this World Cup could reach three or four times the value of the original rights fee. This suggests the company could be investing \$102 million-\$136 million to marketing its association with France '98 and that the total worldwide marketing spend by the main sponsors could reach \$1.2 billion by the time the last ball is kicked on July 12.

For sponsors, the key word when it comes to the World Cup is global. Soccer may not be huge in North America, but it is the most popular sport almost everywhere else. France '98 is expected to be watched by a cumulative worldwide television audience of 37 billion people. To reach those viewers, Anheuser Busch, the US brewer whose Budweiser brand is the official World Cup beer, has launched a global television campaign. "We've never run a specific global campaign before," says Peter Jackson,

vice-president of sales and marketing in the UK. "We are the world's largest-selling beer and this is the world's biggest sporting event, so it's a perfect match for us." The company is investing \$25 million in its UK advertising campaign alone, so with another 83 markets to reach, its global advertising spend will be substantial.

Eric Kraus, director of communications at Gillette, says World Cup marketing works. "We've been involved with the event since 1970, and if the World Cup was not a powerful global marketing tool we would not be involved with it today."

But how do sponsors know they are getting value for money? A recent report by the UK's Chartered Institute of Marketing warned that sponsors would have to work hard to get their message across amid all the hype and marketing "noise" of the World Cup. Kraus at Gillette, says a key attraction of the World Cup is the perimeter advertising. "If you added up the viewer ships of the 52 matches during USA '94, about 33 billion people would have seen the Gillette board behind the goal." As for the impact of World Cup sponsorship, Kraus says, "You

measure it in the fact that you are raising brand awareness. You also hope to see peak market shares during the months surrounding the finals."

Yet it is not just TV advertising campaigns or perimeter signs. Promotional activities such as competitions for customers with big prizes are also part of the mix. Gillette is giving away \$1 million in such prizes during the finals. Adidas, the German sportswear giant, is creating the Adidas Football Parc in Paris to entertain 40,000 visitors, a day with football events, interactive exhibitions and other attractions. Anheuser Busch, prevented from advertising its beer at the stadiums by France's anti-alcohol laws, is building "Stade de Bud" in northern Paris. Housed in a converted warehouse 10 minutes walk from the Stade de France, Anheuser Busch hopes it will provide the ultimate World Cup experience with a few cold beers.



Passion for soccer oozes from Brazilians' pores

PARIS — Brazilian football is simply the best there is, and the national team will be the biggest draw at the World Cup because the cliché is true: the players really do swing to the samba beat. When you watch the Brazilians play, particularly the world champions of 1958, 1962 and 1970, it is as if football were as natural to them as breathing.

No other team attracts such hulla-balloo, such enthusiastic supporters and such worship by soccer fanatics the world over. Most soccer fans see the results, know Brazil has won the World Cup a record four times and can appreciate its artistry on the pitch. But why, oh why has Brazil produced so many gifted soccer players during the last 50 years?

One can talk and talk about good coaching and gifted athletes. But what makes soccer for a Brazilian such a spiritual experience?

One theory is the notion of the Malandro figure in Brazilian folklore. He is a person from Brazilian legend who is determined to unshackle himself from the chains of slavery and to be completely free. He is a black man whose ancestors were slaves and who decides discipline is not for him. He grows up in humble surroundings with little or no comfort, and he survives by being a con artist. He works alone and manages to wear fine clothes, eat in good restaurants and woo the most beautiful women. He also likes to play soccer and is also a great dancer. As you can imagine a person like that does not play with the European penchant for discipline and organization. He has a more liberated joie de vivre as he bamboozles his opponents.

Of course, many of Brazil's great players were black: look at Pelé, Didi, Garrincha and Jairzinho, to name a few. For

the Malandro, he does not plan how he is going to play. For this sophisticated con man, even he isn't sure what he is going to do till it's done. He works by instinct, the seat of his pants, sheer intuition. Trickery and grace are his watchwords, and anyone who has seen Brazil at their best can clearly see these characteris-

tics. So with a front line that turns rivals green with envy, Brazil is likely to be the star turn of France '98.



Brazilian striker Ronaldo

ties. So with a front line that turns rivals green with envy, Brazil is likely to be the star turn of France '98.

The title holders ooze talent from every pore, with players like Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos and Rivaldo, and are the bookies' favorites to emulate their back-to-back successes in 1958 and 1962.

Doubters will point to the dangers of over-confidence creeping into Mario Zagallo's squad, or worse of in-fighting, pointing to the coach's rocky relationship with Edmundo. Especially now that Edmundo has pulled out of the World Cup squad with a calf injury.

Vasco da Gama striker Edmundo shattered the Brazilian championship goal-scoring record with 29 goals in 1997, but he was abruptly dropped by

Zagallo after striking an opponent last June. His wily silver-haired boss suggested he should seek psychiatric treatment. One of the most feared forwards on his day, Edmundo's appearance on the pitch is evidently dependent on his form off it. He may have put himself out of the opening match with Scotland by punching his own teammate Leonardo.

Brazil had a series of friendly games as it fine-tuned its title defense following a great sequence over the last couple of years. Brazil's 1-0 win over England in Le Tournoi in France last year triggered a 14-match winning sequence that came to a rude end with the 0-0 draw with Australia in the Confederations Cup. Its last two matches were a 1-1 draw at Athletic Bilbao, where Edmundo threw his punch, and a 3-0 win over Andorra on Wednesday.

Ronaldo played with the full 90 minutes, indicating Bebeto might be the first choice up front in the frame.

Denilson of Sao Paulo is a left-footer who seduced Zagallo with his explosive pace on the wing. With Leonardo, he blocked Juninho's path to a place on the national squad. Zagallo, himself, occupied the same position on the left flank as Denilson in his playing days. The grandfather of Brazilian coaches, he was a member of Brazil's victorious World Cup side in 1958 and 62, steered the national team to victory as coach in 1970 and returned as second in command to Carlos Alberto Parreira four years ago. With a first-round date with Norway, Scotland and Morocco, Brazil are due to turn on the style this summer.



MONDIAL NEWS

'Animal' in more trouble

EDMUNDO, the Brazil striker known as "The Animal" for his appalling disciplinary record, has been read the riot act after punching Leonardo in the face when the two players argued after a friendly game against Athletic Bilbao in Spain last Sunday. Edmundo was angry Bebeto started the match as, with Romario out of the World Cup through injury, he was keen to claim a first-team spot for the opening match against Scotland.

Parliamentary ticking-off for Tunisia

TUNISIA'S preparations for France '98 have been described as lamentable in their own parliament. Mohamed Troudi, a member of parliament for the ruling party, said Polish coach Henryk Kasprzak's training methods were not serious. "We had better face up to the facts. We will probably struggle in France," Troudi told parliament.

However, sports minister Raouf Najjar, a former Tunisian football federation president, refused to intervene. "Leave the coach in peace to do his job," he replied. Tunisia open their World Cup campaign against England at Marseille.



Strike disrupts France's railways

A STRIKE by railway ticket-inspectors disrupted high-speed TGV services as well as rail traffic in the Paris suburbs. State-owned SNCF railways said Eurostar services between Paris and London, the Thalys high-speed TGV to Brussels and the Paris-Lausanne-Zurich lines were not affected by the strike that ends Saturday morning.

But SNCF said only two of three TGVs were running west to the Atlantic seaboard and three out of four on the northern and south-eastern network. Inter-city lines too were cut by a third.

The strike for extra pay and staff by four ticket-inspectors' trade unions also disrupted Paris suburban services, including the RER commuter network.

Overtime pay for World Cup police

FRENCH policemen will pick up 50 million francs (\$10 million) in overtime during the World Cup, interior minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement said. Almost 25,000 security personnel are to be deployed on a daily basis during the World Cup as France beefs up security to counter terrorism, hooliganism and crime.

7,000 police will be on hand each day, along with 8,000 paramilitary gendarmes, 2,000 anti-terrorist troops and 2,500 soldiers deployed at sensitive points and around public utilities.

A further 3,000 members of rescue and emergency services will be on standby and hundreds of elite police and sharpshooters assigned to protect the 32 foreign teams and VIPs attending the showcase event.



Drug rumors already swirling

EVEN before the World Cup starts, there already are drug rumors in the camps. A radio station in Argentina reported that Juan Veron failed an internal test, a report immediately denied by the player and team coach Daniel Passarella. "I don't know where this silly story comes from," Passarella said. Veron said he felt "mad and sad, as I have a family behind me." Still, team physician Dr. Luis Sevesso left open the possibility of a positive test and said he will investigate.

Four years ago, Diego Maradona was kicked out of the World Cup and suspended for 15 months after testing positive for banned stimulants. "It's possible that some substance might have showed up, but it is well known that most players had the flu," Sevesso said at a news conference in L'Erat. "People are talking a lot of nonsense. Tonight, I will visit each room and tell the players not to take any medicine without my consent."

In another controversial situation, England forward Terry Sheringham apologized for a late night of drinking at a Portuguese nightclub, behavior that broke team rules. "I now want to put this matter behind me and the England team as quickly as possible," he said at his team's camp in Bisham Abbey, England. "I intend to learn from the experience."

Sheringham's photo was splashed across British newspapers Friday, showing him with a cigarette in the mouth and his arm draped around a young woman in a bar on Portugal's Algarve coast. Accompanying stories said he had been drinking until dawn. "This is unlike the Paul Gascoigne case," said England coach Glenn Hoddle, who earlier in the week cut his most popular and colorful player. "I'm sure people will say they are being treated differently, but with Paul it wasn't a case of a drinking situation but about his fitness."



Hejduk joins US squad

IN Treveux, midfielder Frankie Hejduk finally rejoined his US teammates in a full practice after a month on the sidelines because of a right hamstring problem. Hejduk, who scored in the 3-0 victory at Austria on April 22, was projected to start for the Americans before he got hurt on May 6. "He's on track," US coach Steve Sampson said after Saturday's practice at Stade de Fetan. "We hope to give him 30-45 minutes against the French second-division team."

The Americans played an exhibition game Tuesday against Oucugnon, a French minor-league team. That game gave Sampson another chance to evaluate forward Eric Wynalda, still not at full strength following arthroscopic knee surgery on April 16.

Mondial 'friendlies' scoreboard

Saudi Arabia vs Mexico 0-0
Spain vs Northern Ireland 4-1
Croatia vs Iran 2-0
Belgium vs Colombia 2-0
Romania vs Paraguay 3-2
Brazil vs Andorra 3-0
Holland vs Nigeria 5-0
Romania vs Moldova 5-1
Cameroon vs Denmark 2-1
Bulgaria vs Algeria 2-0
France vs Finland 1-0
Germany vs Luxembourg 7-0
Tunisia vs Wales 4-0
Morocco vs Chile 1-1
Croatia vs Australia 7-0



Mondial haircuts club

Also mondial witnesses the competition between players in presenting new fads in the world of haircuts.



Holland's Sidorf



French goal keeper Lama

Nigerian defender West



Holland's Edgar Davids



Colombian midfielder valderama Valderama



France's Caremba



Congestion in Calcutta

Notes from the underground

By Nick Haslam

"WE KNEW that the metro would to some extent help our traffic problems, but what we honestly didn't expect is that it would become a symbol of civic pride." As the chief operations manager of Calcutta's subway system spoke in his office high above ground, I noticed that the afternoon sun was struggling to make its presence felt through the thick smog.

For three years, 126 trains a day have been trundling from the northern suburb of Dum Dum to Tollygunge in the south on a 30-minute journey under the city, whose crowded streets have given it one of the worst image problems in the world. Yet stations and rolling stock are spotless, confounding

the pre-launch critics, who warned that the network would become an unsightly refuge for the thousands of homeless who live on the pavements above.

Before the line opened, a journey to the centre from the city's suburbs meant 90 minutes on a hot, crowded, desperately uncomfortable bus, in air thick with diesel fumes. Now, beneath Orwellian hoardings exhorting passengers to keep their metro clean, 240,000 commuters a day take 20 minutes to cover the same 8km in air-conditioned comfort.

"We are endeavouring to improve our service," said GK Mitra, "and four more lines are planned." He would not be drawn on likely completion dates, however. "All I can say is," he said with a patient smile, "now that the metro has proved itself, perhaps we will not have

to wait so long next time."

History is the reason for his hesitation. The first stage of the metro was a long time coming. Calcutta's transport planners had started to show concern as far back as 1947 when the city was nearly overwhelmed by waves of refugees following the bloody upheaval of partition. Continuing unrest in the north-eastern states and the war with Bangladesh tripled the population in 20 years to nearly 7m by 1971.

The municipal council put on extra buses in already overcrowded streets. Unlike the planned suburbs of New Delhi, where increasingly choked roads take up 25 per cent of the city's area, Calcutta's haphazard growth over three centuries left it with a labyrinthine road network comprising only 4 per cent of its urban area.

Engineers were dispatched to study existing metro systems throughout the world, and finally, on a misty day (December 29, 1972) Indira Gandhi laid the first foundation stone. Perhaps, if Calcuttians had known of the tunnel that lay ahead, the metro might never have been built. For some 20 years, advancing at a piny average of 0.7km a year, the two cut trenches, more than 20 metres wide and in places over 31 metres deep, crept towards each other across the city.

Gandhi had decreed that the project should soak up Calcutta's hordes of unemployed, so armies of labourers hacked, shovelled and carved their way through the dank earth. Traffic chaos racked the city as vast mounds of soil and stacks of concrete bulkheads encroached on to roads along the

route. In monsoon times it looked as if Calcutta would seize up in a nightmarish quagmire.

Metro planners and engineers had to be men of steel nerve and endurance. As well as placating armies of irate commuters, they had to deal with the contentious issue of homes built years before on land set aside for the metro. But if the secular could be ejected, the sacred was implacable. One ancient Hindu temple stood astride the planned route of the metro, and no amount of pleading would pacify the priests.

Finally, the twin lines were divided, the trench bifurcating around the temple. And in the oldest parts of the city, occupants woke up to find sunlight streaming through walls, fissured by wide cracks as the trenches bit deep into ancient foundations. Lawyers grew rich on the endless stream of injunctions taken against the metro authorities.

Money was always short, and oft-promised central government funding arrived many months overdue. Yet, slowly and inexorably, the tunnels crept toward each other. Small sections of line were opened in 1984, but not until September 27, 1995, some 23 years after Gandhi turned the first sod, was the full line opened, serving 17 stations along its 16.3km length. At £270m, the project cost more than five times the original estimate.

Before, many northerners had no reason to brave the three-hour trek south, and for the southern newcomers, the north might as well have been on the other side of the moon. Now, for the first time, the city's two disparate halves are joined. Conservative north Calcutta, where the old families of West Bengal live in large mansions surrounded by legions of servants, is now a half-hour metro ride from the harsh suburbs of the south, populated by those former refugees of partition and war who have worked and struggled hard to become part of a new Bengali society.

Financial Times Syndication

Bicycle industry spinning its wheels in Vietnam



By David Lamb

HANOI, VIETNAM: South-east Asia is turning its back on the trusty vehicle that moved the region into modern times—the bicycle. Bikes have all but vanished from the car-clogged streets of Bangkok, Manila and Jakarta, and they are disappearing fast from other capitals as well.

The only real urban refuge left for bike commuters in Southeast Asia is Vietnam, where the nation's 30 million bicycles outnumber motor scooters 6 to 1 and cars 60 to 1. Bicycle sales in Vietnam are close to 1 million a year and growing.

This should provide a bonanza for the state-owned bicycle industry, yet domestic sales are flat, accounting for only 15 per cent of the total. Unless Vietnam can find capital to modernize its technology to compete with imports from China, Taiwan and Japan, the industry is in danger of losing its wheels.

"We are in a market economy now," said Do Thi Nga, who has spent 36 years in the industry and is general director of a bicycle manufacturer. "We must pay more attention to quality, to giving consumers a choice of models, to getting the technology other producers use. To do that, we need a lot of capital."

For the most part, Vietnam still relies on technology that dates back to the mid-1950s, before the era of aluminum rims and titanium frames and multigears.

The industry has received little investment since the 1980s, and many factories have laid off workers and con-

verted to manufacturing everything from carpets to furniture.

Even the Vietnamese themselves shy away from locally produced bicycles, considering them of poor quality, and prefer the China-made Phoenix, which is often imported illegally without the payment of customs duties. It sells for about \$60, is virtually indestructible and comes in a single style—a one gear model with upright handlebars, old-fashioned brakes and a V-shaped frame that US cyclists would refer to as a woman's bike. Still, the Vietnamese don't complain about the lack of spiffy enhancements that have propelled American manufacturers such as Trek, Bicycle Corp. and Cannondale Corp. into profitability. Their

new production-line machinery and has expressed an interest in forming a joint venture with foreign manufacturers. The state-owned companies, for their part, now try to lure customers with slick brochures and new models, offered in 10 colors instead of just green, which is a revolutionary change for a Communist country that once didn't give a hoot about buyers' preferences.

Yet surely, the days of the bicycle in Vietnam's two major cities—Hanoi and the former Saigon, Ho Chi Minh City—are limited, and one day these streets too will grind to a gridlocked standstill, just as thoroughfares have in other Southeast Asian capitals.

The irony is that the region is abandoning bicycles, and giving in to congestion and pollution, just as Western urban planners are trying to incorporate the bicycle into transportation schemes—as a means of making cities more livable.

Governments here have traditionally not given high priority to the environment, viewing the bicycle as part of the past.

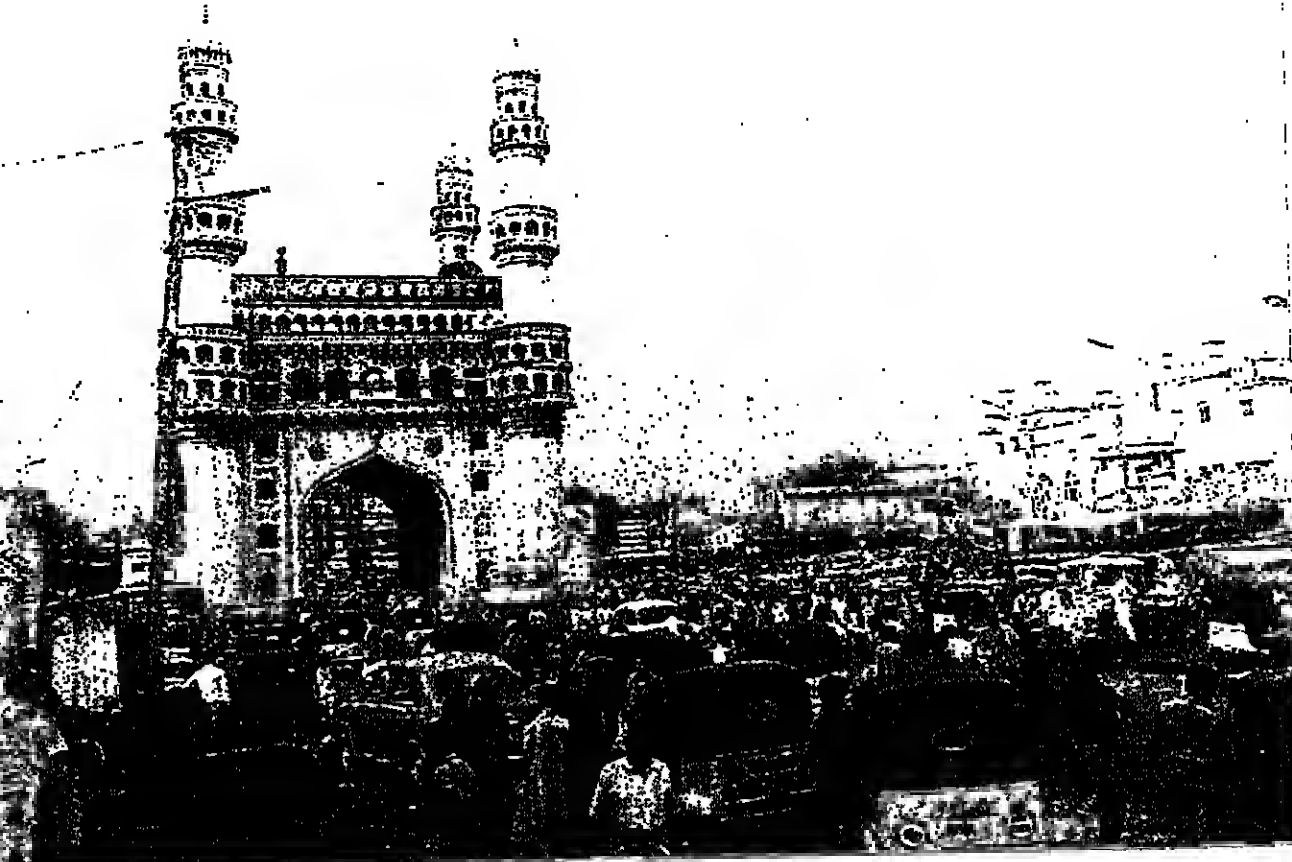
John Pucher, an urban planner at Rutgers University in New Jersey, says that in many large European cities the use of bicycles for commuting has doubled and tripled in recent years. The resurgence, he said, is the direct result of "public policies that have greatly enhanced the safety, speed and convenience of bicycling while making auto use more difficult and expensive."

Bicycling accounts for 30 per cent of all trips made in Holland and 20 per cent in Denmark, and it has risen sharply in Germany, where the government has actively promoted bicycles as an alternative to cars, Pucher writes.

In the United States, by contrast, the bicycle accounts for fewer than 1 per cent of urban trips, even though there are 120 million bicycles in the country, which is more per capita than there are in China, India or Vietnam.

"People all over the world are changing back to bicycles," said Le Thuoc, President of Vietnam's Vinnocycle company. "They are inexpensive, they are healthy, and they don't pollute. I imagine, in the years ahead, you will see fewer bicycles in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh. But the bicycle got Vietnam to where we are today, and I think we'll still be riding them, especially in the countryside, for a long time to come."

LA Times-Washington Post News Service



Madras another city in India facing the same traffic problem

The heat is on to kill the pain

By Clive Cookson

HAVE YOU ever experienced the searing mouthburn, too intense to assuage with bread or water, that comes a second or two after taking a mouthful of curry made with too much chilli powder? Or, just as bad, have you chopped up a red-hot habanero pepper without gloves and got the juice under your fingernails?

If you have been burned by chilli peppers, you may be surprised to hear that the chemicals that make them so hot are becoming fashionable in medical and scientific circles as pain-killers. The main burning chemical in chilli peppers, capsaicin, is a traditional remedy for pain. Now pharmaceutical companies are incorporating it in an increasing number of analgesic creams. At the same time, scientists are carrying out more fundamental research, which could lead to a new generation of pain-killing drugs.

How can you fight pain with pain? The conventional view of capsaicin, as expressed in the British National Formulary, is that it is a "counter-irritant": in other words, if you feel a new pain it will distract attention from the old one.

However, this description is at best incomplete and at worst misleading. Recent research has shown that capsaicin controls pain at a molecular level, producing genuine analgesia. Although the biochemical pathways involved are not fully understood, it seems that capsaicin causes a burning sensation by binding to a molecular receptor on the nerve endings. This triggers the release of a chemical messenger, substance P, which sends pain signals down nerve fibres to the brain. The nerves involved are so-called type C fibres: they transmit the slow throbbing or burning pain that may take a few seconds to take effect but then lasts a long while. This is in contrast to type A fibres, which transmit the instant-onset pain that warns you to get out of harm's way.

Last year, David Julius and colleagues at the University of California, San Francisco, discovered the receptor that starts this process off, VR1, as they called it, is a protein on the surface of nerve cells that binds to capsaicin and

other compounds related

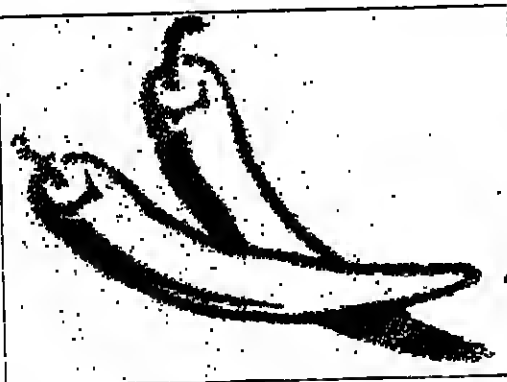
One fascinating aspect of the discovery is that the VR1 receptor also responds to high temperatures. It seems that hot spicy food really does trigger the same "burning" sensations as overheated food.

How capsaicin can act as a pain-killer is not yet clear. By binding to the VR1 receptor, it somehow desensitises the nerve cells and reduces the amount of substance P they produce. This makes them less sensitive to other painful stimuli, and long term exposure to capsaicin may kill nerve cells that have the VR1 receptors.

Now that scientists can make VR1 in the laboratory, they will be able to test many other chemicals for their effect on the receptor. The aim is to look for ones that bind to it more effectively than capsaicin, without causing intense pain themselves. These could become the new, powerful pain-killers of the future.

The chilli-based creams available today to control pain from arthritis, shingles or diabetic nerve damage, contain less than 0.1 per cent of capsaicin. If they are applied to the skin, there is a tolerable burning sensation, and they start to give substantial pain relief within a week. The UC San Francisco researchers are assessing a more drastic approach: creams with capsaicin concentrations of 5 to 10 per cent. At these levels, patients need a local anaesthetic to tolerate the initial burning, followed by morphine for up to five days after treatment. But initial results suggest that high-strength capsaicin creams may offer better relief from chronic pain than anything else currently on the market.

Chilli peppers are not the only promising avenue of research in the fast-moving field of pain control. The animal kingdom is making a contribution, too, with frogs leading the way. For example, the skin of the brightly coloured Ecuadorian tree frog (Epipedobates tricolor) has yielded a compound that blocks pain 200 times more effectively than morphine (which is still the medical gold standard for



remains an extremely powerful pain-killer, but is not toxic.

The Abbott scientists hope that this modified capsaicin will also lack the unwanted side-effects of morphine, including its addictive properties. But several years of clinical testing will be required to prove its safety

before it can be launched commercially.

A quite different avenue, with more immediate results in prospect, is the development of so-called "super-aspirins". These drugs target prostaglandin substances gen-

erated by the immune system, which produce pain as part of the inflammatory process. They could be wonderful treatments for conditions such as arthritis, offering the benefits of existing anti-inflammatory pain-killers, but without the side-effects such as bleeding and stomach ulcers. The first super-aspirin could be on the market next year.

Life without pain may be beyond human attainment, but new methods of pain relief are being discovered. By the next century, these new treatments will be in everyday use, and thanks to the chilli pepper a lot of the pain suffered by people will be deliberately self-inflicted.

Financial Times Syndication

Travel Studio

A velociraptor confronts a visitor at an exhibit of 'Jurassic Park: The Lost World' props at Universal Studios in Florida.

Photo by Randy Kraft



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The Jazz Teacher

Molding musicians in and out of the band room



Wynton Marsalis offers pointers to student Nicholas Mack as he plays Thelonious Monk's "Four in One." Watching are students Eric Wheeler, left, and Ford Bell. photo by Craig Herndon.

By Marcia Slacum Greene

THE MORNING sun creeps over the band-room windows at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts and shines on the New Washingtonians, a spirited jazz orchestra settling in for director Davey S. Yarborough's next lesson on music and life.

Yarborough steps away from them as "Half the Fun" fills the room.

A saxophonist suppresses a smile as he hears the section that he will solo. However, the longer the music plays, the more frowns appear, bodies stiffen and eyes sink into deep pools of concentration. After more than a decade of teaching and a lifetime of performing, Yarborough knows the tell tale signs.

Without acknowledging his students' doubts, Yarborough responds to them saying, "We start off with a disadvantage. We don't have Duke or Johnny Hodges. To be competitive though, we don't have to be them. This is not a piece with a wild tempo. This bad boy is just pretty." He adds further, "You say to yourself, I want to sound like what I've heard. If I can sound like what I've heard, I can be successful. If I can sound better than what I have heard, then I am living the dream."

The mood changes. The young musicians position their instruments and attack every note. A trumpeter misses several notes and puts down his instrument. "Don't take your horn out of your mouth," Yarborough snaps. "Frustration is a distraction. Nothing beats a failure but a try."

So it goes on, score after score, class after class. Like a musical call and response, the teacher challenges and the students deliver.

The 23 orchestra students are among the top performers at this public school in Georgetown, where students from across the city audition for admittance. Even the ones who make the cut, Acting Principal Robert Sands says, "often arrive with raw talent, but are searching for support for their music and their dreams." Many find it in Room 317.

In a school system notorious for short-changing students, Yarborough, a native Washingtonian, works a 16-hour day, using his planning and lunch periods to help students perfect a scale, a sound, a style. He accompanies students on gigs. Knowing artistic hunger is never satiated, he hands out his home telephone number.

At 44, Yarborough has performing accomplishments of his own to brag about, if he were so inclined. He is a saxophonist, flutist and vocalist, and has been a bandleader and arranger for a jazz quartet and a trio. He has accompanied Paul LaBelle and Joe Williams, and it was his saxophone that featured for three years in the theme song for "The Cosby Show."

So exhaustive is Yarborough's love of music that his daughter, Davie, bought him a huttna that reads, "No music. No me."

"Playing is like having a conversation with the Creator, and to me that is the ultimate," Yarborough says.

Yet, given a choice between putting himself or his students in the spotlight, he will linger in the shadows. He insists that there is no tug-of-war between his roles as teacher and performer. "My choice is performance; it has always been."

Those who know him well, and see him in action in Room 317, tell another story. Indeed, some students' parents wonder aloud what they might have been, had they had just one teacher as devoted as the lean, bespectacled music man with dreadlocks.

Yarborough was 16 and full of curiosity about jazz when he stood outside a Washington club, hoping to hear snatches of a performance by saxophonist Sonny Rollins.

Rollins, arriving late, spotted Yarborough. "You're a musician, right?" he asked.

"I want to be," Yarborough replied. With that, Rollins invited him in and began to work a melodious magic. "He was improvising and playing with such intensity that he seemed to grow taller as he played," Yarborough said. "At one point, he put the bell of the horn in my face, and the sound was so pretty it went through me."

Back home around midnight, Yarborough headed to the basement, where for hours he tried to re-create Rollins' emotion and power. When he finally stopped, the sun was up. He was hooked.

At that stage, Yarborough had more desire than skill. He played alto sax and had a rhythm-and-blues band, but he never had a private lesson and played by ear, a combination that could make band

rehearsals exhausting. "If we had to, we would spend four hours listening to one record until we had it memorized."

After high school, Yarborough's parents wanted him to accept a University of Maryland scholarship to study journalism, something with job security. Bobby Felder however, then music director at the University of the District of Columbia, secured a scholarship for Yarborough, who grabbed the chance to formally study music.

It was a rough beginning. UDC professors exposed his inability to read notes. Yarborough taped his imitations of Rollins and, for the first time, realized his sound was uneven and horrible. The doubts rolled in.

His professors' music lessons improved his playing. The life lessons came as he watched Felder give students their bus fare, co-sign when they bought instruments, and cover payments when they came up short. "I never saw the teachers complain, and I saw the success stories that he created," Yarborough said.

After receiving a master's degree in music performance from Howard University, Yarborough married vocalist Esther Williams and bought a house two doors down from his parents. Like those professors that he knew, he coupled teaching with performance.

Developing his own talent wouldn't be enough, Yarborough had decided early on. As a teacher, he hoped to give something back to Washington by creating young ambassadors of jazz, or for any music.

"New York will always be the mecca (for music) if somebody doesn't stop and say let's develop right here," he said, describing his career path. "We're going to hold on to this talent. If the art dies, all my talent is wasted."

Since 1986, he has established the jazz studies program at Ellington and he is now the chairman of the instrumental music department, a combination that brought him to a \$50,000-a-year salary. The pay is far less, some say, than his ability could bring him as a full-time musician.

The Ellington program combines college preparatory courses in English, math, history and science with music studies. Add in rehearsals and performances for as many as three musical groups, and many students find most of

their after-school hours consumed.

"Friends who don't go to my school watch TV and talk on the phone more," said pianist Nicole Greene, 16. "I've grown out of that. TV is a luxury. The only time I use the phone is to help someone with homework."

Soon, Swing Records are planning to release "Lovescape," Yarborough's first contemporary jazz album, with Yarborough playing alto, soprano and tenor saxes. The album will feature Alex Bugnon on piano and keyboards, Charles Fambrough on bass and Mark Prince on drums.

"He is a phenomenal musician," Swing Records President and CEO Ed Wilcy III said of Yarborough. "On this new album, he is the band leader and internationally known musicians are his sidemen. I'm saying to him, you have given so much, now we need to turn it on for you."

There have been moments, alone at the piano in the hand room, packing equipment after a performance, when Yarborough looked drained. At those times, he speaks of change. "I have a gift of music, and I must share it, promote it, develop it. I cannot promise how long I'll do that in this way."

After recently composing a song during 40 minutes snatched from a school day, Yarborough spoke of spending more time on his music, and on promoting himself. It was a dramatic statement from a man who for five years got Wynton Marsalis involved with his students but neglected to show Marsalis his own gifts, a story Yarborough still does not volunteer.

Yarborough smiled as he confirmed it, saying Marsalis, now on the advisory board for the jazz orchestra, "needed to hear the students."

"Whenever you see him, he is always talking about these kids," Marsalis said. The trumpeter was in town for a benefit concert before 400 guests at the French Embassy. "There is a purity and an integrity about the man that is for real. I do workshops. He teaches, and deals with crises from the kids and parents, and the continuous struggle for support. He is rare because he changes kids' lives."

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

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COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

Computer & IT companies

Welcome to The Star's Workstation, the absolute source on what's hot and what's not in Jordan's IT market. Fax us at 4648298 or email us at: StarNETS.com.jo with your news and views.

Prince Al Waleed & Silki La Silki Invest in Arabia.On.Line

PRINCE AL WALEED Bin Talal's Kingdom Holding Company (KHC) and Arabia.On.Line (AROL), the leading Arab online service, announced that Silki La Silki has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to purchase a 50 percent interest in AROL.

KHC has a 50 percent stake in Silki La Silki. The purchase, once in effect, will result in a strategic alliance to grow and develop various aspects of the Internet industry in the Arab world.

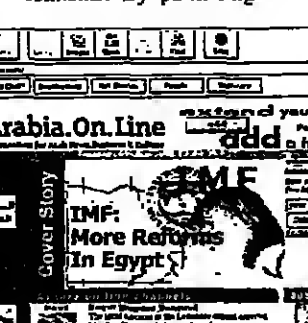
The relationship combines Kingdom Holding's strategic investments experience, financial strength and long-term vision with AROL's entrepreneurial spirit, Internet expertise and market leadership. This strategic relationship will further develop AROL's Internet new media, online communities and electronic commerce businesses, along with its electronic business development services, and expand into various other projects.

AROL's objective is to build the core of an Arab "digital nervous system" on the Internet with the introduction of various media, business, commerce, entertainment and educational services.

"This investment further leverages our media, telecommunications, and information technology portfolio," commented Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal.

"We are honored to form this relationship with HRH Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal. Due to his highness's vision and hard work, the Kingdom Holding Company has man-

aged to build an outstanding portfolio of investments all over the world. We have been particularly impressed with Prince Al Waleed's latest media, telecommunications and information technology investments. By partnering with



Kingdom Holding, we look forward to being the major force in the Internet industry in the Arab world," reacted Khaldoon Tabaza, co-founder and Managing Director of Arabia.On.Line, and Ramzi Zeine, company President.

"We see the potential in Arabia.On.Line," said Fouad Ezzadin Yashar, CEO of Silki La Silki. "We are determined to grow and develop this potential into a number of Internet-related projects in the region. And we expect to announce very exciting news in the near future."

Arabia.On.Line was established in late 1995 and has since been the first and foremost Internet company in the Arab world. Arabia.On.Line's online service, located at www.arabia.com is the leading destination for Arab news, business, and culture online. The service has won a number of awards, and has recently reached a record number of visitors averaging more than 200,

000 hits per day on its core service.

The company holds more than 40 prestigious electronic media and commerce properties on the Internet. These include popular sites such as the www.akhbar.com news site, and

www.aswaq.com business site along with numerous others.

This investment is an extension of Kingdom Holding Company's other technology. Less than two weeks ago the Prince signed a \$200 million deal to acquire 16 percent of Teledosic LLC, the "Internet-in-the-sky" company.

November 1997 witnessed three gargantuan deals when Prince Al Waleed invested in The News Corporation, Netscape and Motorola.

The Prince invested \$400 million to purchase five percent of the preferred shares in the Australian-based The News Corporation Limited, the world's largest media empire. The media group encompasses names like Fox Home Entertainment, Fox Movies, Harper Collins, TV Guide Online, New York Post, The Sunday Times UK, The Times UK, Fox News, Channel V, Fox Television Stations, Star TV, UK Online Service, News Digital Systems, and News Internet Services.

Prince Al Waleed also invested \$146 million to purchase approximately 1 percent of Motorola, which specializes in the development and manufacturing of wireless communications, semiconductors and advanced electronic systems, components and services.

Mass storage, mass benefits

TOWARDS THE end of the second decade of personal computing we can truly say that we are 'spoiled with space'. Storage technology has advanced so much in the past five to seven years, that none of us settle anymore for less than a two Giga-byte hard disk. This has been greatly influenced by the size of software programs which for some reason has managed to exponentially grow along with the storage capacity of hard disks.

It's amazing that, in 1993, my 120MB hard disk was full, but held all the applications I needed. Today, my 1.5 Giga-byte disk is equally full, with more or less the same application categories.

Windows 95 is massively huge when compared to previous versions of operating systems. Take Microsoft Word for example. I remember a time when this wordprocessor came on three or so disks. It didn't include all the 'bells and whistles' of Microsoft Word 97.

For a while, there were those who complained of the sheer size of application software, and entertainment software, simply due to the removable storage problems it caused.

It became strikingly difficult to move files or programs from one PC to another, or to simply keep a backup of your hard disk. In some cases, you needed up to 100 High Density disks to have a full hard disk backup. Of course, there were massive storage tools, mainly cartridges, but they were quite expensive and exclusively purchased by professional users (business users).

For a while, home users had only one, inexpensive solution to relieve themselves of storage woes. That was, to buy a second hard disk!

Of course, the past three years have produced comfortable, flexible solutions for home users. Thanks to optical disk drives, which dropped in price, and owing to new developments in magnetic and laser storage technologies, we can now enjoy huge data storage facilities at home, for as little as \$200.

A champion of this new era is the Zip Drive, and the similar drives that emerged along with it. Iomega, makers of the Zip Drive, produced a below \$200 mass storage drive, capable of holding 100MB per disk.

with each disk priced at around \$30.

Writable CD-ROM is another area that has enjoyed much development, and has provided users with hundreds of megabytes of storage space per CD.



There was a time when it was inconceivable to imagine a writable CD-ROM unit, that fits into a PC's drive bay. But now, anyone with around \$800 or so, can start a CD-ROM library at home.

Moving up-market, you can really find massive storage units, such as the Pinnacle Micro drive—which uses 1.6 Giga-byte optical disks—and the Jazz Drive from Iomega among others.

These, of course, are much more expensive, but still relatively lower than such huge storage capabilities were a couple of years ago.

Amidst all this growth in mass storage, there seems to be a battle of standards raging nowadays, with optical drive manufacturers trying to gain market share and establish their

brand and chosen storage platform as the dominant standard.

Major manufacturers like Sony, Panasonic and Fujitsu produce drive units for several different standards, and also produce optical disks and cartridges to serve the different categories of the market.

The sign success for certain drive brands, like the Iomega Zip Drive, is when these large manufacturers begin to produce disks for it, trying to capitalize on the volume of the drives success among users.

How does all this relate to you? Well, deciding whether or not you need a mass storage device in your household is really a matter of your specific requirements. Some people don't like to throw away any of their software, instead they prefer to back-up. To do so, you definitely need some sort of unit which offer a hundred or more megabytes of storage space per disk or cartridge.

Also, if you keep huge volumes of information, which is rich in graphics and images, then you must definitely require a mass storage unit to keep your data available at hand, but without having to worry about overstuffing your hard disk.

Different people need computer accessories for different reasons; but, needless to say, there has never been a better time to adopt mass storage devices as part of your PC setup.

A 'Pride' is born

FOLLOWING HEIDELBERG'S move to purchase and integrate Linotype-Hell into its company, the Jordan dealers for both companies have come together to establish a new company, that is expected to assume a leading role in the design, printing, pre-press and related fields in the Jordanian market.

Ideal Systems Co. and Printech (August Habash & Co.) have established a new company called Printing Development Co. (Pride), which will

represent all Heidelberg products and many more agencies in the areas of printing technologies.

Pride also represents, of course, Linotype-Hell press systems. Capitalizing on Pride's

relation to Ideal Systems Co., the company will also market Apple Computers, Compaq, Siemens Nixdorf, Silicon Graphics and others. It will be targeting these computer products at the pre-press, publishing and printing industries in Jordan.

INTERFACE

BY ZEID NASSER

Where is the Network Computer?

AROUND TWO years ago, a craze swept the computer industry. The 'Network Computer'—abbreviated as 'NC'—was expected to take over the computer market. Those who advocated the NC believed that the amazing growth in the Internet, coupled with a need for cheaper hardware units to provide access to the Internet, would result in the production of cut-down PCs.

These cut-down units would basically be made up of a CPU, with necessary memory and basic features, not including a hard disk.

The NC plugs into a regular television, and comes with cut-down keyboard, and possibly some sort of controller that replaces the mouse.

The NC went into production, and a number of companies produced it. So, what happened?

Well, it died off, it seems. Network computer sales didn't get off the ground, although Internet mania went on, and reached massive proportions.

However, the single factor that is killing the network computer must be the huge decline in the prices of regular personal computer systems, equipped with modems and are ready to go into the Internet. Nowadays, a reasonably equipped PC is available for under \$700, and that's from the biggest names in the PC industry, such as Compaq. With competition like that, how on earth would the Network Computer emerge?

If users can enjoy the wonders of full multimedia computing, with a comprehensive PC system that could function as a business system, games machine and Internet navigation station; why would they settle for anything less?

Network computers were priced at around \$500, which was around half the price of a typical personal computer. It seems a lower price hasn't provided enough incentive for buyers to adopt the NC and discard their PCs. Of course, with today's prices, even a \$300 NC doesn't stand a chance.

Another aspect which was expected to favour the NC was its simplicity. Everyone wants to be on the Internet, so the idea was to provide a quick, plug-and-play unit which offers full Internet access facilities to people who don't know how to set-up or use a computer.

Even this aspect is being beaten by modem PCs, which offer all-in-one design, and extreme ease-of-use, aided by user friendly software applications.

In some areas of the world, including the Middle East, the NC never even got its chance to begin with. By the time it entered the region, PC prices had dropped.

So, in an effort to revive the NC concept, it has to develop into a different kind of solution for a different category of users.

The NC is well-suited to replace the typical terminal (Green Screen) found in most organizations and corporations across the world.

The terminal is a simple unit, made of screen, keyboard and a very basic motherboard. As the terminal's main purpose is facilitating data entry and communications with the main systems, the NC could comfortably replace these functions and add to them an attractive option: the opportunity to use the Internet as a means of communications and interaction within the organization and outside of it. This fits in well with the Intra-net concept, utilizing Internet software and technologies, all connected to a main server/workstation.

In any case, it may seem that the NC is weakened, but it's definitely not gone yet! It is left to the innovativeness of major computer manufacturers to utilize the NC once again and mark its triumphant return.

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Iran moves toward a new world image Tourist attraction

By Robin Wright

TEHRAN, IRAN—For Nancy Dockery of Beverly Hills, California, the most beautiful sight in Iran was Bam's 9th-century sand castle. The most touching encounter was with her tour guide, a war hero who took her to the battlefield where he was maimed fighting Iraq. And the highest moment was at the Masjed shrine, where she was shocked from a man's area by guards armed with feather dusters because they're not allowed to touch women.

But for Dockery, an intrepid traveler to more than 100 countries, the warmth of the Iranian people made the deepest impression. "For a change, it was wonderful to be in a country where they actually like Americans," she said.

A generation after the US Embassy was stormed and 52 citizens held for 444 days, Americans are back in Iran. Up until now, no one seems to mind.

"I just love those American accents," cooed Massoud Dayyani, assistant manager of the Laleh Hotel, host to a number of US tour groups. Formerly the Inter-Continental, the hotel was renamed after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Laleh is the name of the national flower, the tulip. Like all the big hotels here, until last year it had a huge "Down with the USA" sign across its lobby walls.

Now, the rhetoric and hostility from an angry revolution are disappearing. Abbas Abdi was one of the student leaders who plotted the US Embassy takeover. Today, a graying Abdi says he would not object to the former hostages' return.

"If they come as private citizens, I have no problem," he said with a shrug. "They are welcome."

The return of tourists is part of a broader comeback for American culture. Leonardo DiCaprio is the teen-age heart-throb here, just as pirated copies of "Titanic" top the black market for video rentals. T-shirts from the Chicago Bulls and Los Angeles Lakers are wardrobe staples among Iranian boys, who keep up with NBA scores now reported in Iran's media.

American news, mostly from wire services, is a mainstay in the media. Reports on President Clinton's problems with Monica

Lewinsky, Paula Jones and Jennifer Flowers led Iran's Parliament to introduce legislation to limit publication of certain kinds of female pictures.

Since President Mohammad Khatami in January called for people-to-people exchanges with the United States to "break the wall of mistrust," Tehran's media has competed fiercely for interviews with US officials.

Golam Reza Shirazian, a conservative member of Parliament, went one step further by suggesting visits to Iran by members of Congress. "Why not? They are representatives of the American people," he said in an interview.

But for a regime that once warned about the dangers of "Westoxication," the most striking change is the influx of Western tourists, especially Americans.

"We had just a few Americans come before President Khatami's election, but now anyone is welcome," said Mansour Khodadadi, the ebullient new head of Iranian tourism.

The process is much like the opening up of China after decades of isolation, although with a few distinctly Iranian twists.

Female visitors must conform to the modest Islamic dress code, including the head cover. Dorothy Gibbons of San Francisco, who came to Iran because it has been on her travel list for 40 years, said she didn't mind hejab too much. "I was a little self-conscious at first, but I got used to it."

Iran has spectacular sights, including the 2,500-year-old ruins of Persepolis and the perfectly preserved medieval city of Bam, cradled from the nearby desert's red clay. Yet interviews with more than two dozen Americans in Iran this spring, indicated the main attraction was interaction with Iranians.

Tourism reflects the scope of Iran's recent social relaxation. In the revolution's early years, foreigners daring to bring playing cards (a tool of gambling) would have them ripped up by one during airport searches. Chess boards were confiscated, outright, because of the royal pieces. Getting through immigration could take hours.

This year, an Iranian team is competing in an international chess tournament. At customs, the main scrutiny now is for pornography and drugs.

Not everything has changed. A Tehran tour is not complete without a stop at the old US Embassy, where the corner shop sold, for years, volumes of classified cables captured in the so-called Den of Spies. Now, it peddles religious tracts.

Still, the tall brick fence surrounding the compound has one of the many slogans painted in Farsi and English after the seizure. "We will make America face a severe defeat," it says in now chipping blue paint. Most of the old anti-American propaganda on billboards and buildings have gone now, but one of the most offensive is still plastered on the side of an eight-story building. The stars are replaced by skulls and the red stripes become missiles raining down on Iran.

Not everyone in government is pleased with the rising American profile. Last week, many speakers complained about "this to-ing and fro-ing by US agents." The foreign minister has been summoned by Parliament to explain recent visits by various American "political and security agents," including various noted US Middle East officials.

The new tourism also reflects a growing realism in Iran, where budget worries often override ideological purity. With oil revenues expected to drop this year to \$10 billion, down from \$16 billion in 1996, tourism is a budding alternative source of income. Before the revolution, it was a top money-maker.

There is, however, an exception to the new thaw. Iran and the United States are due to have a new confrontation. The battlefield this time is a soccer stadium in Lyons, France, where the national teams will confront each other during the World Cup. For some Iranians, the stakes are far more important today than in 1979. Soccer is such a passion that the mere act of qualifying for the World Cup last winter sparked street demonstrations and all-night revelry. "I think it would be better for both countries if there is a tie," Abdi said. "If Iran loses, people will again be angry at the Americans, but this time it won't last 20 years. It'll only last a week."

LA Times-Washington Post News Service